

JANUARY 17TH, 2022 : BRAAM FAMILY

GIVE MORE OUT OF YOUR DISCOMFORT



The story in John 4 is the account of a conversation and encounter between Jesus and a woman who came to draw water at the well. The conversation starts with some hostility from the woman and ends up with her conveying the message of salvation to her whole community. There's so much that we can learn and apply from the interaction. The first thing highlighted is the state in which Jesus is in; He is **TIRED** and **HUNGRY**.

Fatigue and hunger are not the best things that one can feel, but looking at Jesus, it seems that even at His 'worst', He can still stay focused on what is essential. This trait is not a one-time thing, but it is how He lived. There are so many accounts of a similar nature where Jesus overlooked His discomfort for others. On one account, He was tired and sad after hearing of John the Baptist's death; however, when people came to Him, He had compassion over them. On another, He was at the cross but still interceded for the forgiveness of those behind His crucifixion.

Looking at the way Jesus interacted with people, and in the story specifically, we can see in bold letters that we should never minimise our downtime. Our downtimes are moments and seasons that are not favourable. We can ask ourselves; how do we treat others when we are in an unfavourable position? How do we respond or react to challenging moments?

We all go through downtimes, it could be lack, disappointment, betrayal, hurt, and the list goes on. The focus isn't on the downtime but our reactions and attitude during these times.

Downtimes are important because they can either make or break a person; many destinies are lost or made in times of weakness. We can either sulk or allow God to be seen through us even at our lowest points. Our moments of weakness are God's favourite operating platforms (see 1 Corinthians 1:26). When you're weak, let God's power and strength manifest through you (2 Corinthians 12: 10). When you acknowledge God's power in your life, you start considering your handicap as a gift. Many great psalms were written in moments of crisis, and from that, we can see that beauty can come out of the ashes. So, do not despise the hard place.

Another thing to never minimise is the people you approach or approach you. We can see that Jesus did not dismiss this woman on accounts of her hostility, nor did He push her away after knowing the kind of life she lived (this woman had five husbands, and the one she was living with was not her husband). We can see that Jesus came to include everybody. He overlooked the fact that Samaritans and Jews had a conflict over the subject of worship. The question then arises: how do we treat people once we know how bad their lives are or find out about their shortcomings? Jesus fully knows our flaws, but He still directs His love towards us.

There are people that God has put in our lives so that they hear the gospel from us; if we don't tell them, how will they know? This Samaritan woman had a bad life, but she became the salvation bridge between Jesus and the Samaritan people. So, we should not despise people in our lives because they might carry a revival in them that goes beyond our reach. Some people have the grace to reach out to more people for God, but that becomes possible only if you approach them first. Our goal in teaching the gospel is not only to make new friends; we are here to help people receive eternal life.

In closing the conversion, Jesus told His disciples: "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!" (John 4:35 NKJV). The harvest is ready, but there are not many workers. We don't need to be spectators of God's big move; He has called us to be active participants. The Father sowed the Son on the cross as the seed for many to be saved. That is the message that the world needs to hear. The urgency to evangelise becomes more when you begin to see people through Jesus' eyes. Every moment, hour, or day with someone is an opportunity to share with them the good news. Today's missed opportunities may become tomorrow's closed doors.

Reference scriptures:

John 4: 1-42

Luke 8:11

1 Peter 1:23

Ecclesiastes 11:4

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