

Today's reading, we hear so much about Jesus's message. We see so much of it that we don't quite fully understand because it's a different time, too different ideology of what we're used to. But it's a fantastic story about God's love for everyone.

So many times in today's world, we spend the week living out a much different life than what we do on Sundays here. So much of what I hear out in the world is people coming up to me and saying, I sat next to this person on Sunday, and we talked about God's love, and we talked about the need to feed the hungry, the need to give water to the thirsty, the need to be with those who are imprisoned within themselves. And then the first thing they do on Monday morning is the exact opposite of everything that they said they would do on Sunday. And it's frustrating because we'll be here, and you'll sit next to your friend, somebody that you've been friends with all your life. You know that they're feeling for God is as great as your own, but you also know that they hate everybody across the river. They don't like going to Woodward. They don't like going to Slater. They don't like Sheldahl. They don't ever want to leave town.

Is that still sharing God's love? It's not. The only difference was during the second Exile; they didn't leave. They stayed in Samaria. They stayed where they were, and they married Babylonians. They marry Gentiles. They brought Gentiles into their faith.

That's the difference. That's why they're so hated by the Jews. It isn't because they worship a different God. It isn't because they worship differently. It's because they embraced God's love and God's word and accepted everyone. And that's exactly what Jesus is trying to teach when he says it doesn't matter if you go to the mountain or if you go to the temple. You can find God everywhere.

You can find him everywhere in the world within each one of us. God has imprinted his name upon our hearts. That's what the running, the living water is. It's the river. The river of his love, coming out upon everybody. It's not supposed to be stagnant and sitting in a vessel.

God's love isn't supposed to just be within these four walls on Sunday. It's supposed to be spread out. It's supposed to be given to everyone.

The importance of this woman is astounding because she's a terrible person. She's a sinner. She goes to the well in the middle of the afternoon, so she doesn't have to see anybody because she knows she sinned. She doesn't want to have to deal with being judged, and this is the first time in her life that she is not being judged. Jesus has come to her and says, I know all about you, and I still love you. I know everything you've done, and I still want you to be a part of the next life. I want you to go and share my love, and she does.

How great God's love is. How great God's love is, and that it doesn't matter everything she's done. She's not embarrassed anymore. She's embraced that love, and she's running, and she's caring. And she's telling everyone how great it is. That's a lot of it.

Like what we talked about last week. How do we share God's love with people who need it? That don't want to ask people who are imprisoned within themselves, they're lost, they're alone. They're looking for help, but they don't know how to find it. They know that the doors are open every Sunday, but they need it more than just on Sunday.

We are the living waters. We are the embodiment of Christ here today, and we can share that love with everyone. It doesn't matter who they are. Not just here in the building here in each of our hearts. Not just here in the building here. In each of our hearts, with each one of us, loving and forgiving. Because it's not our place to judge. It's our place to love. It's our place

to feed the hungry, to clothes the naked, to give the water to the thirsty. That's what God's message is. That's what today's story is about, sharing that love everywhere and with everyone.

Let us pray.