Thirst Satisfying Grace

(A Study of the Gospel of John; Message #11)
John 4:1-26

A. Our focus will be on Jesus and his grace

B. We'll define grace as "undeserved favor"

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not of yourself, it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8)

C. We often look grace in the face and miss it

The Grace of Accessibility

A. Jesus leaves Judea to go directly back to Galilee with his disciples

"Now he had to go" (John 4:4)

B. Grace compels Jesus to go through Samaria

The Grace of Initiation

A. Jesus simply asks for a drink

B. But his Father cracks open a door; and Jesus walks faithfully through it

The Grace of Ignoring Barriers

A. Jesus crosses a number of lines of proper protocol

1. Jesus speaks with a Samaritan

2. Jesus speaks with a Samaritan woman

3. Jesus speaks with a Samaritan woman of ill repute

B. Jesus ignored these man-made boundaries

The Grace of Priority

A. When Jesus takes the drink he will become ceremonially unclean

B. Notice that it doesn't matter to Jesus

"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick...For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners." (Matthew 9:12-13)

The Grace of Truth

A. The rabbis of Jesus day gave water to their disciples

1. This "water" was the rabbi's teaching

[If a rabbi gave poor teaching, he was] *"exiled to a place of evil waters, and the disciples who come after him will drink and die."* (Aboth 1.11)

2. When someone speaks the Truth it nourishes; it promotes life

B. There are two basic kinds of drinkable water

1. Cistern water was rainwater trapped in pits dug into the rock

2. A constant source of fresh flowing water was called living water

My people have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug cisterns that cannot hold water. (Jeremiah 2:13)

C. The truth begins by recognizing we are in a dry and barren land

1. He is the living water that cleanses

2. He is the water that heals

3. He is the water that nourishes life

"Living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half to the Eastern sea and half to the Western sea, in summer and in winter." (Zechariah 14:8)

The Grace of Acceptance

A. There is also something missing in this story

B. The grace Jesus' offers holds no judgment

The Price of Grace

A. Grace always has a price

B. But His grace must be shared

C. Who are today's Samaritans?

1. Jesus has graced us

2. His life-giving water is doing it again and again