



CELL GUIDE 2016

Theme	Beyond Church Walls
Topic	RTFW 3: Ministering to the Sexually Broken
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Date	7 th and 8 th Aug 2016

Message Summary

Ministering to the Sexually Broken

Ministering to the sexually broken is not easy. Furthermore, our lack of understanding of how to do so can lead to responses that are not only unhelpful but hurtful. However, Jesus has shown us how to do so in His encounter with a Samaritan woman at the well in John 4:1-30.

First, Jesus asked the woman for some water and then guided the conversation to the topic of worship. While many believe that the Samaritan woman changed the topic from water to worship due to her guilt, a careful study of the text shows that her true struggle was about worship.

What then is worship? Worship is essentially what we give worth to. It is important to understand that what we give the most time to in our lives, is really the thing or person that we worship. Simply put, what or who we worship determines how we lead our lives.

By grasping the concept of worship and from studying Jesus' response to the woman of Samaria, we can learn how to minister to those in need.

Four Ways to Minister to the Broken

1. Go beyond your personal comfort zone

In this incident, Jesus went into Samaria because He *had to*. (v.4) Despite being wearied from His journey (v.6), Jesus ministered to the woman at the well. He wanted to do His Father's will and He loved the Samaritan woman. In the same way, we should minister out of love for the person and our Father, no matter how uncomfortable it may make us.

2. Guide them from felt needs to real needs

Jesus was patient with the Samaritan woman who did not understand His point despite repetition (vv.10 – 15). Similarly, we need to be patient and find out what the person's real need is before we show them how God can meet it. Also, we should apply the Word of knowledge as it allows the person to see that God is with him/her. However, we should not give advice as the person is not looking for that but for love.



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3. Glorify our Father

Point the person back to worship. We were made to worship, and worship connects us to God. The person should not focus on overcoming his/her sin but on God. The more a person thinks about overcoming his/her sin, the more he/she is focusing on sin. By focusing on God, the person will want to please Him and God will help him/her to overcome the sin.

4. Give room for encounter

God is near those who are broken and contrite (Psa 51:17). Do not push the person for an answer or breakthrough because only God can bring about transformation. Our part is to pray for the person.

Questions

What touched you about the manner in which Jesus interacted with the woman at the well?
(Fill In Answer Here)

Personally, what or whom is the object of our worship and how is this reflected in the way we live our lives? Why is it important for us and all struggling with sin to centre on God rather than our sin?
(Fill In Answer Here)

Ask God to bring to mind someone struggling with sin – it could be sexual brokenness or otherwise. How would you specifically apply the four handles given in this sermon? What are some missteps we should avoid taking when ministering to those struggling?
(Fill In Answer Here)