



NEWMARKET COMMUNITY CHURCH

*Connecting people with God
within authentic community
where all are welcome.*

Word Notes: Sunday 19th May, 2019

Encounters: What is wrong with the world?

What is wrong with the world? I imagine most of us have been in conversation where this question has been debated, and no doubt found that there are many, often strongly held opinions! It is impossible to respond to this question from a Biblical perspective without addressing the matter of sin. I wonder how comfortable you would feel in one of those conversations offering the response that the problem with the world today is sin? Sometimes it is easier to address sticky topics like through stories of individuals personal experience. That's what we'll try to do through two accounts in John's Gospel, where two very different people encounter Jesus.

Read John 4:4-26

From what you've read in the passage, what can you tell about this woman?

(To help everyone engage in this question, why not draw a stick figure on a large piece of paper and invite everyone to brainstorm what they know about her - encourage people to refer to the text for evidence)

Jesus uses the analogy of thirst and living water to describe what he can offer this woman. It is unlikely that the people we connect with day-to-day are especially thirsty for water. What sorts of things are they thirsty for? (note them down ready for the next question)

How can can Jesus quench these thirsts?

Now read John 3:1-4

How is Nicodemus different from the woman at the well?

On the surface, Nicodemus looks very different to the woman at the well - he appears to be a well-respected, morally upstanding man. But his problem is ultimately the same as the woman's -he is trying to quench his thirst in the wrong place. He seeks acceptance and significance through his personal achievements and wisdom. But the truth is he will never be truly satisfied by his own efforts. Only Jesus can truly satisfy.

Are there any areas of your life where you are trying to quench your thirst with the wrong thing?

How could the two encounters we have read about help you respond to the question "what is wrong with the world?" next time it comes up in conversation?