



Pastor Joel Pagett

## LENT—CHRIST'S TRUE LOVE FOR YOU

**FACT**— the aim of Lent is, above all else, to prepare people for the celebration of the death and Resurrection of Christ...the better the preparation the more effective the celebration will be. One can effectively relive the mystery only with purified mind and heart . This is experienced thru our lent experience of giving something up to draw closer to God.

Lent is a biblical principle

- Joel 2:12-13 (NIV)

Lent requires us to make changes

The Condition of Mankind

- Jeremiah 2:13 (The Message)

Lent does brings us to a place we must reevaluate what our spiritual life is made of and brings us in touch with the mystery of Easter by us personally preparing for this season.

Not just 40 days of change but a lifetime!

A Lesson from a conversation with Jesus

- John 4:1-18 (NLT) Jesus and the Samaritan woman

Lots of obstacles in the natural but mentality she was stuck with disappointment.

V. 4 God will pursue and cross any lines he has to get to you

### **Mentality of the Samaritan Woman**

1. Hope cancelled
2. Dreams became disappointing and lost
3. Destiny diverted

As the woman looked at Jesus, facts had to be dealt with.

V.9 As this woman looked at Jesus three invisible walls stood between

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them. A religious wall, gender wall and a racial wall.

There is a triple surprise in these verses. First that a Jew would speak to a Samaritan. Second that a man would speak to a woman he didn't know in public. Third that a Jew would drink from a Samaritan's cup.

He takes her from restlessness and longing to rest and a satisfied thirst.

Jesus makes an unsuspecting offer: Jesus broke down the traditional barriers, accepting her as she was and giving her a fresh start in life. He demonstrated God's love for all who have been rejected, condemned, or shunned, which should encourage us. No matter what we have done, God offers us His unconditional acceptance in Jesus. With His powerful help, nothing can stand between us and a life of obedience.

V. 10 If only He knew

V. 11 But how?

V. 12-15 Thirst issue

- John 7:37 (The Message)
- John 4:14

Why could Jesus do this?

He was the well she could draw from

God is ready to act if we are bold enough to act

Why do you get carried away worrying about the right bucket?

Woman's response

15 "please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water

V. 16-18 The moment of truth

But Jesus asked the question and it became her moment of truth

Your longing restlessness and emptiness can only be found when you drink the living water of Jesus Christ.

Lent is about truth. Search me God. We cannot hide from God

What changes?

Life no longer is a mystery but a love story how Jesus pursues us asks us to be disciplined. He takes us on a journey that will be filled with opportunities celebration and hope.