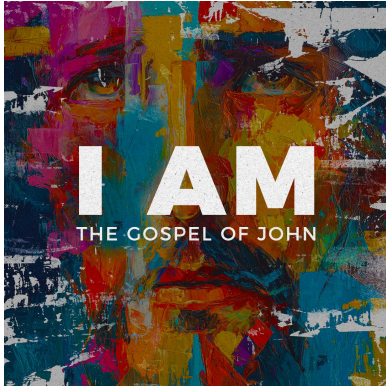


Title: Drinking Deeply

Series: I Am

Speaker: Kevin Sneed

Date: June 21, 2026



Introduction

In Jesus' encounter with a Samaritan woman at a well, we see a shocking welcome, a deeper wanting, and a world made new. Rather than keeping his distance, as was culturally expected, Jesus moves toward the Samaritan woman. He takes the woman's shame and turns it into joy. He exposes her longings and disordered desires, revealing her deeper longing for Him. He knew everything about the woman and loved every corner of her life. Ultimately, her story of transformation leads others to living water.

Key Texts: John 4:1-42

Icebreaker

Describe a time when you wanted something so badly but were either disappointed or not as satisfied as you expected to be when you received it. Why do you think that was?

Discussion Questions

1. Read **John 4:1-42** aloud as a group. What do you notice about the way that Jesus approaches and reveals himself to the Samaritan woman?
2. Jesus reaches out across every social, cultural, and religious barrier in his interaction with the Samaritan woman. How do you think she might have felt in this conversation? What do you notice in her responses to Jesus?
3. Re-read **John 4:10-15**. Jesus reminds that woman that it is the "gift of God" that He has on offer for her. Kevin reminded us that the gifts are given on the basis of the giver, not the recipient. Why do you think the reminder that eternal life is a "gift" or grace from God might have been so significant for both Nicodemus and the woman at the well? What differences and similarities do you notice in their interactions with Jesus?

4. Kevin reminded us that nothing can prevent us from experiencing the radical welcome of our loving God. Where in your own life might you be asking the question: “How can God deal with *me*?” Is there a personal barrier that may be preventing you from drawing close to Jesus and embracing His welcome? Are there any ways that you might be trying to earn (through merit or achievement) God’s love or favor?

5. Read **John 4:16-26** again. Jesus’ invitation to the woman was not to generate faith in Jesus - it was an invitation to transfer her desire from lesser things to Him, the true Source and the way back to the Father. What stands out to you from this part of the conversation? What need do you think Jesus is identifying in this woman? How does this conversation reveal a deeper need or longing within her?

6. Kevin mentioned how we often think we are desiring too much, when in reality we are desiring too little - we stop short of the deeper desire (communion with God). How have you seen this to be true in your own life? How have you experienced the pursuit of lesser things leaving you hollow and constantly searching for more? How can our group pray for you?

Key Takeaways

- Jesus met the Samaritan woman where she was and began to change everything.
- Jesus is the light piercing the darkness. Exposure to the light permanently extinguishes the darkness.
- The shocking welcome of Jesus subverts every barrier we construct. Jesus calls us to embrace His welcome and to exemplify it to others.
- Eternal life is a gift of grace - it cannot be earned or achieved; it is offered out.
- Our greatest thirst and deepest desire is for communion with God. Jesus invites us to reorder our loves and longings so that He is the chief aim of our attention and affection.

Radical Hospitality - Table Welcome

Jesus invites us, as he did the Samaritan woman, to embrace his welcome and exemplify it to others. She then goes on to share with many others in her own town. This story provides us with a framework for how to approach those far from God - to move closer and to extend radical hospitality. This week, pray for one person (a coworker, friend, neighbor) whom you might consider to be far from God. Consider how you can invite them to the table this week, whether for a meal, coffee, or even just one step toward intentional conversation. Ask God to help you be an extension of His love, grace, and compassion. Pray about how you can bear witness to His love to this person in both word and deed this week.