

First Sunday at the 1900 Miller Ave.

Acts Chapter 29 – Part 1

October 3, 2021

The name, “The Well of Christ” came from the story in John 4:1-42 that we know as “the woman at the well”. **This woman** had made a lot of mistakes in her life. And we can assume that some things had happened to her that should have never happened. And she was obviously an outcast, or she would not have been at the well at that time of day. She was avoiding interaction with you know, the good people. Add to this that in those days, Jews, esp the religious leaders, would have never talked with this woman because she was a Samaritan. These were half breeds that they didn't associate with. But Jesus didn't and still does not look at what nationality you are from or what you may or may have not done, He looks at the potential that God created inside of each and every person! He offered her, and to us, the life giving water that only Jesus can give.

We have a saying that we speak every Sunday morning that we gather together!

“Welcome to The Well, where the life giving water Jesus gives, never runs dry!”

That is our mission here, to offer to any who would take it, the life giving water of Jesus Christ.

That brief interaction that Jesus had with this outcast of a woman that day, changed her life! And she went and told the village she lived in and their lives were also changed as a result.

And that's why we are here, to introduce you to Jesus. To learn about Him so that you will follow Him. We want to teach you how to follow Him so that you too will begin to be changed by Him and won't be able to help yourself but to tell others about Him and what He's done in your life!

Our world is in a mess! We are a mess! But God wants to take your mess and make it

into a message that will change not only your life, but be a catalyst of change in other peoples lives.

Our **mission statement** here at The Well is *“making disciples, changing the world”*

Which is what Jesus told His disciples and to us right before He ascended up to heaven after being crucified and raised from the dead. **Matthew 28:18-20**

Our **vision statement** is *“Revealing Christ's atoning sacrifice thru ministering His word, resulting in healing, deliverance, signs, wonders and miracles.”* We read in Marks account of Jesus's last words before He ascended to heaven, **Mark 16:15-17** We believe that Jesus was not just talking to those 12 men that He personally mentored, but to everyone who will believe because of His message! We here at The Well want to continue to carry on all that Jesus promised. We also want to preach the gospel, cast out demons, speak in new tongues and lay our hands on the sick and they recover. Oh, God! Use us here at The Well to be a catalyst for change in our city, our county, our state, our nation and to the ends of the earth!

We are not a church, but a ministry focused on teaching the word of God, applying it and living that out in your everyday life. We are not the typical American church where you walk in, sing a few songs, have a gifted speaker inspire you with stories and maybe a scripture or two then send you home and have “done your church duty for the week”. No, we want to help you learn how to live out the word of God. We may include videos, slides and stories but we are also **going to interact and discuss** what we just learned so that when we walk out that door you have a better understanding and tools you need to navigate that crazy world out there God's way. We have another saying around here, *“it's not about you getting into the Bible, but about the Bible getting into you!”*

We want to utilize this building to **host groups and studies** and gatherings to “equip you for life”.

To equip you for everyday life according to the way these Holy Scriptures instructs us to as well as preparing you for eternal life. Lori and I believe that God has called us “out of the mainstream, denominational church” so that we can reach people that may think that they are not worthy to go to a church. Or don't want anything to do with a church because of a hurt or a wound or hypocrisy.

As our vision statement implies, we are on an **incredible adventure** with the God of the universe. We want you to understand, believe and walk out all that God has placed inside of you fulfilling His destiny for your lives. We want you to embrace ALL that Jesus Died on the cross to provide for you so that you won't live broke busted and disgusted and depressed like the people with out Christ lives. We want you to join us and bring others along too that want to go on this adventure here at “The Well”.

Lori nor I have a “seminary education”. We prefer not to actually. But one thing we do have is that we tried to live this life without Him, and now we live our life for Him. And we want to serve Him by teaching you what He has taught us. And we ask you to join with us as we continue to love Him and serve Him as He leads. We wholeheartedly believe that He asked us to step out in faith and rent this building so that we could all learn more about Him together. But we **will need your support** to keep this ministry going by your faithful and generous tithes and offerings. The box is in the lobby for you to give as Holy Spirit leads you.

So, welcome to The Well! Where the life giving water Jesus gives...never runs dry!

Play Song “God so Loved the World”

So let's get started on today's lesson. It wont take you very long to see that we really are

all about Jesus around here. A couple years ago I lead a bible study where we got pretty in depth in studying the book of Mark. And all thru that study I kept reiterating that Jesus was, is and always will be “a really big deal!” I mean, come on, **our timeline is based on Him**. His virgin birth, sinless life, miracle working power, His sacrifice and death on that cross then raising from the dead was so significant that it split our time in half! BC before Christ – AD after His birth. **He always was with God**, and was the Word that created all that we can see and all that we can't see. He chose to leave the throne room of heaven, come to earth and crock pot in the womb of a woman for nine months, grew up fully human and demonstrated how to live a totally surrendered life to the will of God. He performed miracles like healing the sick, casting out demons, causing the blind to see, the lame to walk. He raised the dead and calmed the raging sea. He died on a cruel cross to save us from our sins then rose from the dead so that we could have eternal life. You may not quite understand at this point what all that means to you, but let me tell you, it is “a really big deal!” **What's the most important reason** He came to earth? To save you from your sin nature and provide a way for you to be reconnected to Father God. Why? He wanted a family. He wanted sons and daughters to love and us to choose to love Him back. But guess what? You have family members, friends, coworkers and acquaintances that you rub shoulders with every day that don't know or don't care that the God of the universe loves them and wants them to have a relationship with Him. But Jesus is asking us to tell them. If you are here and you have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ into your life, He didn't automatically beam you up to heaven but left you here to be a witness of His love and be a demonstration of a changed life. I heard about a survey taken in Shelby county that there are around 30,000 people that have no “religious affiliation”. So that means that right here in our own back yard are people who are lost and will leave this earth with out the Savior if we don't tell them. **AS Jesus said in Luke 10:2** “the harvest is great but the workers are few. So pray to the

Lord who is in charge of the harvest, ask Him to send more workers into His fields.”

If you are here today and do not know Jesus as your Lord and Savior then keep coming back and let us teach you and show you who He is. If you are here and you are somewhere in between, you've accepted Him but it scares you to death to talk about it to others, keep coming back, we want to help you get over that fear. **1 John 4:18** says, When you learn of the perfect love that the Father has for you and embrace that love, all fear will go.

I believe that Father God is leading us in the following weeks to get into the **Book of Acts**. Just a side note; Luke, who wrote the book of **Luke and the book of Acts**, was NOT one of the disciples but a physician and a close companion to the apostle Paul. Can you imagine being a physician in Jesus day? Without any of the modern technology that we have? Seeing Jesus “heal all who were oppressed of the devil”, so many sick and deformed and Jesus healed them all! No wonder wrote these two meticulous accounts to reveal Jesus Christ and “about everything Jesus began to teach and do until He was taken up into heaven”. Thank you Luke!

Read Acts 1:1-3

I think God wants us to get into the Book of Acts because there is a lot that we can learn from this account of the disciples who was taught by Jesus himself, ones who heard His teachings and saw His miracles. He walked with and taught them before his crucifixion and for 40 days after His resurrection **He continued to instruct** them about the kingdom of God. Today, there are people who still doubt Jesus's resurrection. But Jesus appeared to the disciples on many occasions to prove that He was alive. Look at the change that it made in the disciples lives because of the resurrection! At Jesus death, they scattered – they were disillusioned, and they feared for their lives. After seeing the

resurrected Christ, they were fearless and risked everything to spread the good news about Him around the world. They faced imprisonment, beatings, rejection and martyrdom, yet they never compromised their mission. These men would not have risked their lives for something they knew was a fraud. They knew that Jesus had raised from the dead, and the early church was fired up with their enthusiasm to tell others. It's important that we know this so we can have confidence in their testimony. It's been over 2020 years since Christ's resurrection, do we still have the same confidence? We can, and we better get it.

Walter and I are probably the oldest ones in here and we have never seen our christian faith and God's ways being so attacked like they are today. I don't mean to step on any toes here but we will speak the truth because it needs to be told. Radical leftist politicians are pulling out all the stops to take away our freedoms. Willingness to kill babies as they are born at the alter of convenience and “women's rights”. What happened to the unborn and the baby's right to live? Biological males deciding to become females, biological females deciding to become male and our school systems giving them the right to decide that at age 8-12 yrs old without the parents consent. Attempting to Close down our churches and telling us it's too dangerous to sing. I could go on but I will stop for now. People, you better know what you believe, and you better believe in the resurrected Christ. He is our only strength and hope in these crazy days.

Let's see what else Jesus tells His disciples during those 40 days after His resurrection.

Read Acts 1:4-5, 8

He told them to wait until they were empowered by the Holy Spirit and when they were they would be His witnesses to the end of the earth! People, that is our commission still

today! For the disciples, they had to wait till Jesus left the earth and went back to heaven so that Holy Spirit could come on them and in them to empower them. But all we have to do is to accept Jesus Christ into our hearts and confess with our mouths that He is Lord of our lives and Holy Spirit will come in and make us a new creature in Christ. We can become wall to wall, 1/3 divine nature! Empowered to stand for Him even in the face of persecution. But we will talk more about Holy Spirit next week.

Before we close Let's all turn to Chapter 29 of the book of Acts.What?!? There is no chapter 29? Yes there is! I'm looking at it! It's you ... and you... and you.... and you! **You are Chapter 29** of the Book of Acts! And in the following weeks we are going to dig into what the disciples demonstrated when they received Holy Spirit so we can continue Christ's work here, in Shelbyville and Shelby County and to the ends of the earth!

Let's Pray!

Now let's talk about a take away from today. What will you take home in your heart and begin to do or change as a result of what you heard here today?