

THE BIG IDEA: God moves people to people.

The Take-Off

A little over a month ago I ran into someone locally who asked how our church was doing and I said great!

What she told me next is something I'll never forget, and I prayed as soon as I heard it that we would never stop being a group passionate about following God's presence anytime He moves and anywhere He moves us.

She looked at me, smiled, and asked, "Do you know what me husband calls your church?"

Now, that could lead to all kinds of answers, but I said, "No, what?"

She said, "Every time we drive by your building, he says, 'There's the "What's God going to do next?" church!'"

In the currency of church reputations, that, my friends, is pure gold.

The quickest way to lose that is to settle, but as we saw last week, moving is God's way of keeping us from settling, and we'll always follow Him when His presence is our preference.

That means not only is God on the move, but as His people, we'd better be on the move, too, and we need to never forget this week's Big Idea: **God moves people to people.**

So, on our final Sunday here before we move there, let's talk about what life on the move looks like.

There's a perfect picture of it in John 4, and while we won't read all of the first 42 verses, we can make 4 observations from this encounter that Jesus had with a woman at a well that will be true of us individually and corporately when we're on the move with God.

1. Following God means risking reputation

- a. This would be easy to overlook in the passage, but notice the climate:
 - Tension between Pharisees and Jesus
 - Jesus' response? Go to Samaria (unheard of) and talk with a woman (even more unheard of)
- b. Following God often comes at the risk of losing our reputation
- c. I don't mean this as harsh as it may sound, but we've got to care less about what others think
- d. Galatians 1:10 - if we're following Jesus, we make pleasing Jesus more imp than pleasing men

2. God moves us to places in order to get us to people

- a. Verse 4 say that Jesus "had" to go through Samaria
- b. Understand this: Samaria was right on the way from Judea to Galilee, but many Jews took a longer route in order to avoid it (think of it as a Samaritan bypass)
- c. Jesus never tries to avoid people, and we shouldn't, either
- d. God led Jesus through Samaria because there was a rejected woman who needed Him
- e. God moves us to places in order to get us to people!
- f. This woman went at noon to collect water in order to avoid the other women who went early or late
- g. But Jesus was right on time
- h. We're not moving to a place, we're moving to the people that we will meet in a place
- i. That means that the people we meet on the way are never in the way

3. God moves us past our past and gives us purpose

- a. Have you noticed that the theme of "people" keeps coming up in the story?
- b. People are God's mission, and he moves people to people.
- c. Jesus was sent to seek and save lost people (Luke 19:10), and that's why he had to go through Samaria
- d. And guess what happens when we get that? We leave stuff. This woman came to get water, and when Jesus met her, she left her water pot (v. 28) and went after people
- e. Many of us are holding onto baggage, convinced that God can't use us because of our past, but what we see here is that God moves us past our past and gives us purpose - to move toward people with the same passion that caused Jesus to move toward us

4. Sometimes carrying the message creates a mess

- a. As we start bringing this last message here to a close, let me point out something: Jesus made a mess.
- b. Well, more specifically, Jesus carried a message that made a mess.

- c. Because he had a mission to preach a message of freedom, and because that mission took him to a woman at a well in a sketchy part of the country, look what happened:
- Jesus got tired (v. 6)
 - A woman called out (v. 17)
 - Jesus got called out (by the woman AND his disciples)
 - A bunch of unclean people met Jesus (v. 41)

The Landing

Something beautiful happens when we're willing to get messy carrying the message!

Romans 10:15 tells us that the feet that carry the gospel are beautiful, but we also know that those feet can get tired, dirty, messy, and we want to close our season of ministry in this space by serving the most beautiful part of our body as we carry the gospel to the next place.

The leadership here wants to wash your feet, because we know that they can get messy carrying the message.

God moves people to people, and he uses beautiful feet to do it!