



Healing encounters

- The type of healing that comes with relationships.
- We don't have to limit healing stories to the miraculous.
- Healing stories are a glimpse into the purpose of _____. They tell us about who he's come for and what he's come to do.

An unlikely encounter

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, "Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John"—although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized—he left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) John 4:1–9 (NRSV)

- I. Healing takes place when we remove social and cultural _____.
 - Jesus' ministry involves a restoration of one's identity.
 - Things that we have put in place throughout history to categorize and label prove _____ more often than _____. This can hinder the healing journey.

- II. Crossing paths at the well(s): Healing grows with vulnerability.
 - _____ occurs at the wells of our lives—the places where we can be vulnerable without the fear of outside challenge.

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"

John 4:10–18 (NRSV)

- Healing is not about us fixing or changing the person, but about reminding the person of God's _____.
- Within a healing encounter, God invites and sees opportunity for mercy and redemption.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. Revelation 22:1–5 (NIV)

III. Healing involves a journey of _____.

- A recognition rooted in embracing and accepting that God's grace and mercy are made alive for us in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

“Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

“Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.” John 4:19–26 (NIV)

- The recognition is what gives us the _____ to move forward.
- We belong to Jesus, who is our “messiah,” which means “_____.”

“The Suffering Servant”

*Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.*

Isaiah 53:4–6 (NIV)

- A wound has unimaginable depths, but space where others might sow.

To ponder...

When has the Church been a place of refuge in your life?
Who has God used in your life along the healing journey?
What is keeping you from seeking the healing you might need?