



### TODAY'S INITIAL TEXT

John 24:28-29, 28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?"

### FIRST THOUGHTS

Verses 28 and 29 in John 4 record an amazing statement from the lady we commonly know as the *Woman at the Well*. This is a lady who encounters Jesus while drawing water. She doesn't seem to be the type of person who would be well-respected or listened-to in her own community. Yet, in this account we see her becoming an influential person, with a powerful message that impacted so many people in great and eternal ways. The key is she experienced the "second thrill." The first thrill is when she discovered that Jesus is the Messiah, the One who rescues us from sin. The second thrill is when she began to connect other people with the Truth that Jesus is the Messiah. A follower of Jesus who regularly experiences this second thrill is a person who grows strong, confident and courageous in relationship with God, understanding God's Word more clearly, and determined that others will also know about Jesus. **So, how do we have conversations with others about Jesus in a way that is more natural and more effective?**

### OUR GOALS FOR THIS STUDY:

1. INITIATE \_\_\_\_\_ CONVERSATION
2. \_\_\_\_\_ YOURSELF
3. PLANT \_\_\_\_\_ IN THE MIND OF OTHERS



4. FIGURE OUT THEIR CURRENT LEVEL OF \_\_\_\_\_

### EXPLORE THE TEXT:

#### Luke 15:11-32 New International Version

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' 20 So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

31 "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

#### WHAT "COMMON LIFE EXPERIENCES" ARE IN THIS PARABLE?

Desire for wealth, independence

AMBITION

Leaving home, traveling far away

LONELINESS

Losing wealth, being in need

IN NEED

Sense of hopelessness, no one there to help

Not the best decision-making

WISDOM

LIFE EXPERIENCE	GOD'S WORD	RELEVANT TRUTH ABOUT GOD
<i>Ambition</i>	The father let the son make his own decision, and did not force his own authority over the son.	God knows what is best for us, but He doesn't force it on us. Sometimes He allows us to figure this out on our own.
<i>Loneliness</i>	The son was far from home and ran into a really difficult situation. At that point he felt a sense of loneliness and hopelessness.	God knows that we can be lonely and He is waiting for us any time we turn to Him... and being near Him is the best solution for feeling lonely or hopeless.
<i>In need</i>	The father could provide anything the son needed, as he had done his whole life, but the son was far from the father.	God is a great Provider of anything we truly need, and we can see this clearly when we are not far from Him.
<i>Wisdom</i>	The son landed in a tough situation because of unwise decisions. The key at that point is still wisdom... not regarding what decisions he had already made... but wisdom regarding the next decision he makes.	With God... wisdom isn't just about how you got in to the situation you're in... but about what you do next. The son made a wise next decision and ran back to the Father.

**SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE:**

Is having a meaningful, spiritual conversation something that you value? Followers of Jesus generally answer “yes” to this, but we face the challenge of how to naturally initiate those conversations. Our challenge for this week is to practice this type of conversation, and it takes a little bit of preparing on our part.

How will you increase the likelihood of having a meaningful conversation this week?

- ✓ Review the Prodigal Son parable
- ✓ Identify again the common life experiences
- ✓ Pray for opportunities to initiate spiritual conversations
- ✓ Courageously decide to initiate a spiritual conversation

**UPCOMING WEEKS:**

- \* Spend time praying for God to open opportunities for you to have meaningful conversations.
- \* Be amazed at how He answers those prayers.
- \* We will continue to explore having natural and effective spiritual conversations.

**READ THROUGH THE BIBLE:**

