

Fourth Sunday of Lent - Unarmed “Grace Without Barriers”

John 4:5-42

Grace crosses every line we use to feel safe

Welcome To The First Sunday of Lent

The season of Lent offers us a time to consider how best to identify with Jesus during the forty days from the Cross to Easter. This series will teach us what it means to face injustice, evil, and suffering by laying down everything but love.

What does it mean to be unarmed with nothing but love in our current culture? What are the barriers we put up to protect us?

Today, we will study a story from John’s Gospel about Jesus and a Samaritan woman he meets at a well.

GRACE CROSSES EVERY LINE WE USE TO FEEL SAFE

John 4:5-42

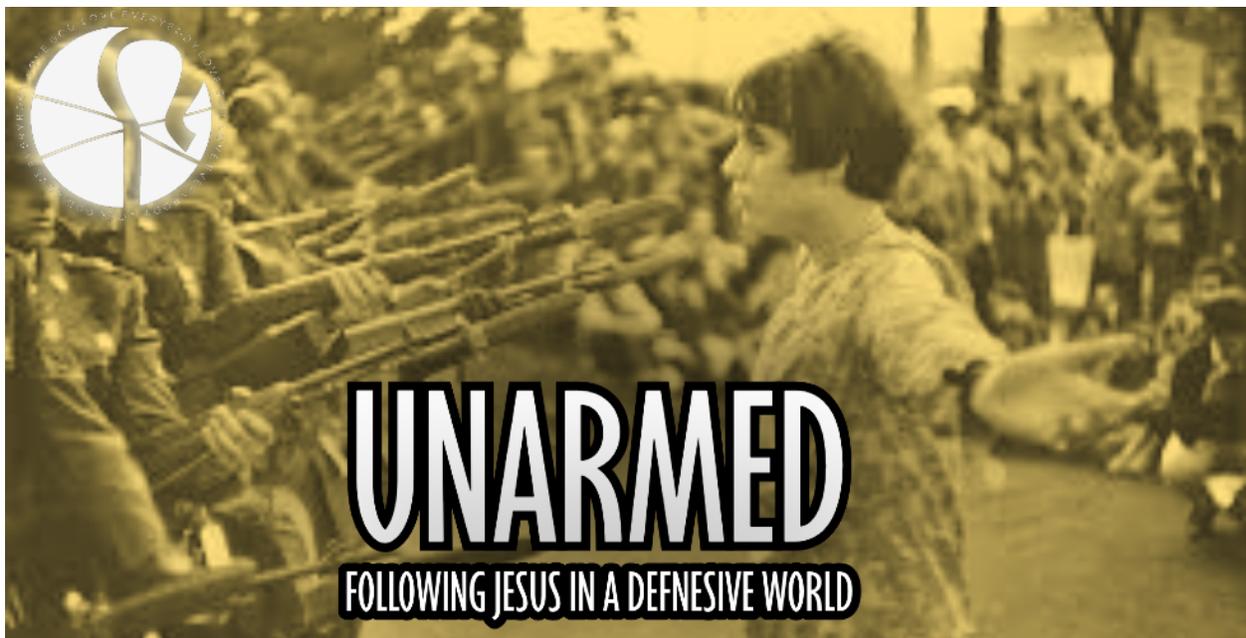
- Samaritans & Jews, Men & Women, Wells & Marriage*
- The idea of “living” or “running” water escapes her, but there is longing.*
- Maybe the way we’ve looked at this woman needs to be rethought.*
- She is bold enough to want to talk theology with a rabbi.*
- Unlike Nicodemus, she responds immediately and brings back others.*

Jesus crossed many barriers in this story—race, gender, religion, social norms, politics, and ideas about marriage... All to reach someone who longed for God.

Some Important Questions

- 1. What barriers do we have up that need to be breached?*
- 2. What does this look like? (Empathy, compassion, love)*
- 3. What might happen if Jesus-followers began living this way?*

GRACE CROSSES EVERY LINE WE USE TO FEEL SAFE



SERMON EXTRAS & FURTHER READING

FOR FURTHER READING:

Wondrous Encounters: Scripture for Lent

Richard Rohr

Show Me The Way

Henri Nouwen

A Way Other Than Our Own

Walter Brueggeman

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