

Weekly Study Guide

The week of September 27, 2015

Daily Readings

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|----------|-------------|---------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Monday | John 4:1-26 | Tuesday | John 4:27-42 | Wednesday | Mark 3:31-34 |
| Thursday | Mark 10:1-9 | Friday | Ephesians 5:21-33 | Saturday | Galatians 3:26-29 |

Wish to view the message again? Go to vimeo.com/flcwb. Will you be out of town soon? Watch online at livestream.com/flcwb.

Wish to ask Pastor Corey a question about today's message? Contact him at 651.429.5349 x206 or cpaxton@flcwb.org.

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *Jesus' Secret to Change the World*

Next week's readings: John 18:28-40

Join us next week as we continue our series, *The Best Kept Secret*, to explore Jesus' secret of changing the world. Jesus lived in a time with competing visions of how human beings could be part of changing the world to reflect God's will. Jesus' secret to changing the world was offered to ordinary people in a radically different way than the other models of change at his time. Join us next week to see how Jesus showed his disciples ways to change the world and how we can follow him in our lives today.

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect

As a teenager, who had the greatest influence on your understanding of relationships? What is one thing you have had to “relearn” about relationships since that time because of Jesus’ influence in your life?

Learn

One of the ways Jesus changed the way people in the ancient world treated women was the place he offered them in God’s family. Let’s look at a few examples. **Read Luke 10:38-42.**

- In the ancient world, to “sit at someone’s feet” meant to be someone’s disciple—or an apprentice to their teaching and way of life. Why was it significant that Jesus invited Mary into the position of discipleship? How do you think this transformed the cultural expectations of women at the time?
- Why is being with Jesus “at his feet” the more blessed position? What is significant about this posture in relationship with Jesus?
- For women and men, why it is sometimes easier to do things for Jesus than to be with Jesus and learn from Jesus?

Read John 4:27-34, 39-42.

- What cultural norms did Jesus transform in his interaction with the woman at the well? How do you think the woman felt after this interaction with Jesus?
- What did Jesus mean when he offered her living water (Read John 4:10-17)? How do you think the other failed relationships in her life left her empty?
- How do you think people look to human love to fill the place in their life that only Jesus can fill? How have you experienced this reality in your own life?

Another way Jesus changed the way women were treated was in the context of marriage. In the early church, Paul exhorted both men and women to submit to and treat each other like Jesus in marriage. **Read Ephesians 5:21-33 together.**

- How does Paul say marriage is meant to be a symbol of the kind of love God has for us?
- Why was the vision of sacrificial love that Jesus ushered into marriage radically different than the Roman vision of marriage?
- How do you think marriages would be different if men and women saw marriage as an opportunity to love each other like Jesus and put his love on display for the world?

Read Mark 10:1-9 together.

- What vision of marriage did Jesus call his disciples to honor? What cultural expectations and attitude toward marriage did Jesus confront?
- What did Jesus say was keeping people in his time from embracing God’s vision of marriage? Why do you think it is easy to become hard-hearted in marriage? Why do you think Satan would want to keep marriages from reflecting the oneness God desires?

Apply

How does Jesus’ vision for women and marriage inspire you? Is there a woman who is either single or married in your life that you could encourage and pray for? How do you think you could grow in developing the posture of “sitting at Jesus’ feet” to receive his living water in your life?

Pray

Spend some time praying for each other to receive Jesus’ love, for our sisters in Christ, and marriages in our church to reflect Jesus’ love.