

(1)

Intro: Say Robyn has gone to Amsterdam. It is famous for its red-light district. If you go there it will not be surprising if you meet a prostitute.

So here are two clues about this woman's situation that tell us about her and what she needs.

She is in a similar way to the girls of Amsterdam an outcast. She lives in a way that makes her tone to the well not with the other women in the morning but when they are at home having lunch. She has had five husbands and is living with number six'

She talks to Jesus about the constant drudgery of having to get water.

I get a sense of a very needy person who takes all the time-like having to get the water -

Jesus talks to her about the opposite. Instead of being a "needy person" he tells her that it is possible to become a spring of water-offering something to others. This is the St. Paul saying "The thief should stop thieving and start working so that he will have something to give away!"

So the question comes to me what is it that has caused such need? How does this happen?

(2)

Tell story of "The Drama of the Gifted Child"

Elements: (1) Needs not met early on

(2) Must develop a false self in order to survive

(3) Forgets true self and only operates from false self.

(4) Spends their life buying a "taker" because they are trying to make up for the loss of their true self

The problem is that no amount of trying to get back what has been robbed will work because what has been taken is in the past.

The only thing that will work is the gradual contact with one's true self-and a respect for the grief of what has been lost. Learning to cry is the key to becoming a spring! Learning to make contact with your true self-in the first place with grief-is the way to becoming a person who has anything genuine to offer to others.

This is what Jesus does for this woman. He brings her into contact with her true self-the 6 men- and does not force her to be anything other than she truly is. He does not condemn her. This is the beginning-this is why he is her saviour.

(3)

*Say: What are the consequences for us?*

*First: If we recognize ourselves in this woman then the first place to direct our attention is inward-to our own grief at what he have lost. We cannot met the Gods face to face until we have faces!*

*Second: If we find ourselves saying things like "Charity begins at home" or being tight fisted rather than open hearted then we know that we are in need of a bit of "Jesus therapy"*

*Third: the object of church life is that we become bearers of the truth of what has happened to us: How Jesus has been the savior y us. If we have nothing to say-we have some work still to do.*