



JESUS CALLS US

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THE ORDER OF SERVICE

- I. Bell tap or organ voluntary as a signal for silence
- II. Singing
- III. The Apostles' Creed
- IV. Prayer, closing with the Lord's Prayer in concert
- V. Singing
- VI. Calling roll of officers and teachers
- VII. Responsive reading of the lesson text by school
- VIII. The Decalogue

THE LESSON

- I. Organ interlude while the classes are being arranged
- II. Class study of the lesson
- III. Warning bell — 5 minutes
- IV. Closing bell — silence

THE CLOSING

- I. Singing
- II. Review and application of the lesson
- III. Secretary's report
- IV. The Church School Creed
- V. Singing
- VI. Benediction

EDITORIAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Roderick Belin, Publisher
Faith Waters, Lessons
A.L. Stanfield, Copy Editor
M.E. Russell, Layout Design

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He arose from the dead, He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

THE CHURCH SCHOOL CREED

I believe my AME Church School must grow and grow; and that I must make it a top priority to make it so. Every member a Christian, every Christian a worker, every worker trained so that a worker need not be ashamed. This we ask in Jesus' name.

AME Discipline

SPRING QUARTER

MARCH 2023 – MAY 2023



The Prodigal Son

Lesson Scripture: Luke 15:11-32

Focus Scripture: Luke 15:11-24

KEY VERSE: *“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’”*
Luke 15:21

WORDS TO KNOW

SQUANDERED – *to waste money in a reckless and foolish manner*

DISSOLUTE – *to behave without restraint by indulging in things such as alcohol and/or multiple sex partners*

FAMINE – *a widespread scarcity of food caused by war, natural disasters, crop failure, poverty, or an economic event*

SINNED – *to commit an immoral act that violates God’s commands*

COMPASSION – *to feel sympathy and concern for the suffering or misfortunes of others*

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: LUKE 15:11-24

- 11** Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons.
- 12** The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them.
- 13** A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.
- 14** When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need.
- 15** So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs.
- 16** He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.
- 17** But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger!
- 18** I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you;
- 19** I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."
- 20** So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.
- 21** Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'
- 22** But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.
- 23** And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate;
- 24** for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate."

INTRODUCTION

For the Spring quarter, we are going to focus on the theme, *Jesus Calls Us*. The Spring quarter connects Jesus' ministry on earth, as exhibited in passages from all four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, to the birth of the church in passages from the book of Acts. For the first four lessons of the Spring quarter, we explore how Jesus disregarded societal norms and reaches out to the marginalized of society.

Our lesson for today is coming from the gospel of Luke. Luke was a physician as well as a Greek and Gentile Christian. He was a close companion and friend of Paul. He wrote Luke and Acts which are considered a two-volume book. Luke desired to give an accurate account of the life of Christ and to present Christ as the perfect man and Savior. In today's lesson, we evaluate the parable of the prodigal son.

How does having money and popularity make you feel? How do you feel when the money is gone?

BIBLE STORY

Jesus frequently shared parables with the disciples and others. A parable is a story that has a spiritual truth. Jesus used parables in order to make the preaching of the kingdom more intelligible and impressive to the people. Jesus often incorporated concepts such as farming, human activity, relationships, or nature so the people could relate to what he shared.

The three parables of chapter 15 are a trilogy in that all three speak of the joy of finding that which is lost. The chapter lets the reader know Jesus attracted tax collectors and sinners. The Pharisees and the scribes criticized his receiving and eating with such persons, and Jesus responded with a parable (vs. 1 – 3). Jesus welcomes those who are rejected by others as a host does for their guests. Breaking bread with them signifies complete acceptance. Jesus accepts all who comes to him. The parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin follow in verses 4 through 10.

Luke 15:11 – 19 The parable of the prodigal son is a story of love, forgiveness, and joy. The father had two sons whom he loved equally. When the younger son decided not to wait for his inheritance

but demand it right away, it signals to us he was anxious to leave home and experience all the world could offer. His father did not argue with his son. The father gave his sons what was due to them (11 – 12). According to Jewish custom, among two sons, a younger son received one third of the inheritance which was usually received at the father's death but in this circumstance it had been divided earlier (1 Kgs. 1 – 2; Deut. 21:17).

The younger son packed his belongings up and left for a distant country (13 – 14). We can imagine he partied, drank liquor, and slept with many women. The younger son got to live the life he desired. But in the end after all his money was gone, he had nothing or no one to help him. This young man became homeless. To make matters worse, there was a severe famine in the country. He was hopeless and hungry. So, he had no choice but to find a job. The job he had required him to feed pigs by giving them pods. The young man was so hungry he considered eating the pods. Nobody gave him anything to eat (15 – 16).

As a Jew if he ate the pigs, he would break his covenant relationship with God and become like the Gentiles (Lev. 11:7; Isa. 65:4 and 66:17). The pods he fed the pigs were the long pods of the carob tree (look up for info) that animals ate. Sometimes the extremely poor ate the pods. The young man realized the hired help of his father had plenty to eat but he was starving. He decided to go home and repent of his sins against God and his father (17 – 19). He was willing to become his father's servant. This action required humility. When we sin, we must humbly repent and seek forgiveness from God and anyone else we have offended. This brings healing and restoration within our relationship with God and loved ones.

Luke 15:20 – 24 When the Pharisees and scribes heard this parable, they were offended. But Jesus desired for them and all others within the sound of his voice to not only hear but do something in response. They just got more irritated with Jesus.

The son traveled back home. His father had been watching and waiting for his return (20). His heart was filled with compassion when he saw his son coming. The father was dealing with a person who had a will of his own; but, he warmly greeted his son on his

return. In the same way, God's love is constant and waiting. God will search for us and give us an opportunity to respond. God is patiently waiting for us to come to our senses.

The son acknowledged his sin against God and his father (21). When we come to understand our wrongdoing, it is important to confess and repent. God will forgive us. Moreover, if at all possible, we have to go to those we have harmed and ask for forgiveness. We need to be reconciled with God and our family.

The father made sure his son had a new robe, a new ring, and sandals (22 – 24). A celebration was held in the son's honor. The son "was dead and is alive again." "Lost but now found." His son had been selfish in wanting his inheritance before his father died (12). But God's love reaches out and finds sinners no matter how or why they got lost.

How do you think you have failed God by sinning? How can you be reconciled with God and others?

SANKOFA

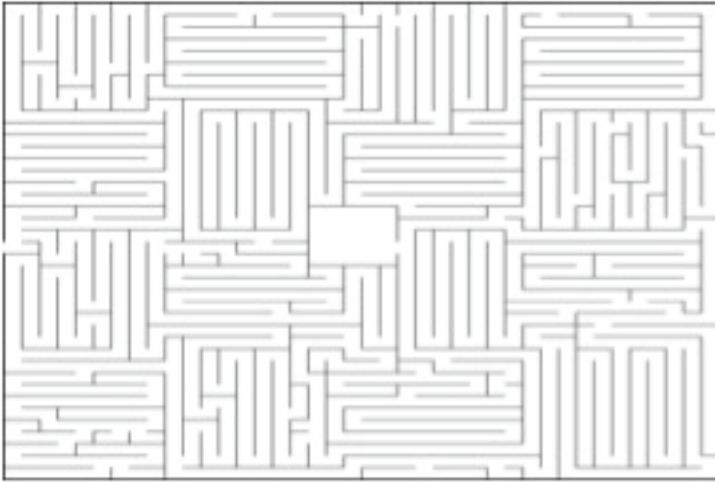
God loves us. And no matter the messy life we are in, God can and will forgive you. God has the power to give you a new life. Testimonies are key to helping others know about the transformation Jesus can make in our lives. If you are able, please view the YouTube testimony of this young lady who was lost. She is now a bold witness for Christ.

Crowned in Faith: <https://youtu.be/kZj9mC4lvX4>

How did her old lifestyle seem similar to the prodigal son's? What changes did she make to become a new creation in Christ?

REAL TALK, FAITH WALK

Cars have front windows and rearview mirrors. When you look in the rearview mirror of your life, what do you see? When you look through the front window, what does your future life look like? Are you lost? Do you need to change directions? Find your way out of the maze. God is waiting.



SUMMARY

The father willingly gave his youngest son the part of the inheritance due to him. His son was selfish and did not care about how he offended his father. The son went to another country and squandered all his inheritance. He made bad choices that left him penniless and hungry. In spite of his behavior, his father was waiting for him to come home and celebrated his return. The father loved both of his sons (20, 28). He acted generously towards both (12, 22, 31). God's grace and love is extended to all. God is waiting to be reconciled with us. Every day we can celebrate God's faithfulness through praise and worship; witnessing; loving and forgiving others; and being reconciled with those we love. How will you celebrate God's faithfulness?

CLOSING DEVOTIONS

Prayer: God, thank you for always being faithful and extending grace to us. Your love is never ending. Thank you for giving me a new life and future. Amen.

*Hymn: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"
(AMEC Hymnal #84)*

A Child Is Greatest in the Kingdom

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 18:1-9; Mark 10:15

Focus Scripture: Matthew 18:1-9

KEY VERSE: *“Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 18:4*

WORDS TO KNOW

GREATEST – one of higher status amongst others

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN – God’s eternal kingdom

HUMBLE – having or showing a modest estimate of one’s own importance

STUMBLE – to cause another to fall away from God

MILLSTONE – a large stone turned by donkeys used as a grinding instrument for making flour out of grain

WOE – warning

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 18:1-9

- 1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"
- 2 He called a child, whom he put among them,
- 3 and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
- 5 Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.
- 6 If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea.
- 7 Woe to the world because of stumbling blocks! Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to the one by whom the stumbling block comes!
- 8 If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life maimed or lame than to have two hands or two feet and to be thrown into the eternal fire.
- 9 And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into the hell of fire."

INTRODUCTION

The gospel of Matthew was written by Matthew (Levi) who previously worked as a Jewish tax collector before becoming a disciple of Christ. Matthew wrote to the Jews to prove that Jesus is the Messiah, the eternal king. He connects the Old Testament prophecies to the fulfillment of prophecies in the New Testament. There are 53 quotes and 76 other references to the Old Testament.

Jesus was teaching concerning the kingdom of heaven in chapters 16 - 20. Shortly after Jesus' transfiguration, the disciples began to argue about who amongst them was the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. In today's lesson, Jesus teaches about having a childlike humility.

Do you recall being on a team and discussing who was the best or

greatest? Or, do you recall as siblings talking about who was the favorite of your mom or dad? How did it make you feel?

BIBLE STORY

Just like some of us, the disciples were arguing about who was the greatest (v. 1). Their mindset led them to believe each one of them were worthy of the highest position in God's kingdom. This demonstrated their arrogance. They had forgotten that Jesus had just predicted his death for a second time (17:22 – 23). The disciples were only concerned about themselves.

Jesus used a child to make a crucial point about the kingdom of heaven. He desires for us to be childlike in our pursuit of God (3 – 5). This means we should be humble, trusting, and modest. The only way to be a citizen of the kingdom is through conversion and showing the humility of a child. Moreover, Jesus makes it clear that whoever demonstrated hospitality towards a child was actually welcoming him. In times past, children were held as having little essential value. Their worth lay in their potential as future contributors. But Jesus is making it clear that the children are valuable to him today. Likewise, the church should remember that children have value now, not just as the future of the church.

Jesus then discussed offenses and the consequences of such behaviors (6 – 7). Offenses are actions and attitudes that harm others or cause others to sin. Anyone who is the cause of the children turning away from faith in Jesus will receive severe punishment. It is important to help other believers (and ourselves) to avoid anything or anyone who could cause us to fall into sin. We must remove stumbling blocks that cause us to sin.

Jesus denotes that sins must be dealt with severely. He is using inflated examples such as self-mutilation, which we must not take literally (8 – 9). We are never to harm ourselves. But we have to eliminate sin so we can inherit eternal life.

How does Jesus define greatness? Compare and contrast the qualities of the humble versus the proud. What is the difference between childlike and childish behaviors? (What issues are you having separating from

people and things that are causing you to sin? How do you personally deal with your sin in your life?)

SANKOFA

Thinking back to when you were a child, what types of behavior do you believe you displayed? Now as a young person, do you sometimes display childlike behaviors? Write down some of your childish and childlike behaviors. Our past is often a reflection of our future. How similar and/or different are your behaviors? Develop a three-to-five-minute skit to display both childish and childlike behaviors.

CHILDISH:	CHILDLIKE:

REAL TALK, FAITH WALK

Read Mark 10:13 – 16 and note how the disciples treated children. How did Jesus react? Do you recall an occasion or time in the church when adults did not treat you respectfully? How would Jesus handle your situation differently?

When we try on clothes that we have not worn in a while, they may not fit the same way as in the past. If we still want to wear them, we might get the clothes altered to fit us properly. In the same way, we personally change as time passes. As we grow spiritually, we no longer fit into the same groups or places as we did prior to having an encounter with Christ (salvation). In what areas of your spiritual life do you need alterations? What can you do to make changes?

SUMMARY

Jesus reminded the people that children are valuable to him today. Likewise, the church should remember that children have value now, not just as the future of the church. We must make every effort to remain humble as children and pursue Christlike qualities. We have to be wise in dealing with children as not to harm them. Moreover, Jesus warns that there will be punishment for those who make children stray away from their faith in him.

As you think about the qualities of Christ, what specific quality do you need to pursue daily? This week make a decisive plan to embody that quality and become more Christlike.

CLOSING DEVOTIONS

Prayer: Father God, help me to become childlike in my pursuit of Christ. Remove any pride and arrogance in my heart. I will humbly follow and serve him forever. Amen.

Hymn: "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know"
(AMEC Hymnal #549)

Jesus Talks with a Samaritan Woman

Lesson Scripture: John 4:1-42

Focus Scripture: John 4:7-15, 28-30, 39-41

KEY VERSE: *Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." John 4:39*

WORDS TO KNOW

SAMARITAN – *an individual belonging to the old kingdom of northern Israel that became a mixed race after the destruction of Samaria in 722 B.C.*

THIRSTY – *to desire water; have a powerful desire for something*

MESSIAH – *this title became a designation for the Coming One*

TESTIMONY – *being a witness that Jesus saves and gives us a new life*

SAVIOR – *Jesus, who saves one from sin and condemnation*

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: JOHN 4:7-15, 28-30, 39-41

- 7** A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."
- 8** (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)
- 9** 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.)
- 10** 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."
- 11** The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"
- 12** Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"
- 13** Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,
- 14** 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."
- 15** 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."
-
- 28** Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,
- 29** "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"
- 30** They left the city and were on their way to him.
-
- 39** Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done."
- 40** So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days.
- 41** And many more believed because of his word.

INTRODUCTION

The apostle John, son of Zebedee and brother of James, wrote the gospel of John. John wanted to prove that Jesus is the Son of God and that all who believe in him will have eternal life. It was written after the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 but before John's exile to the island of Patmos. Every chapter of John reveals Jesus' deity. And he underscores Jesus' true identity through the titles he is given such as: Word; only begotten; lamb of God; Son of God; true bread; life; resurrection; vine, etc.

Today's lesson focuses on Jesus' encounter with a Samaritan woman at a well. We will explore what barriers existed between Jesus and the Samaritan woman.

What barriers do we create that hinders us from forming close relationships with others?

BIBLE STORY

Jesus' teachings often caused people to oppose him, especially the Pharisees. They did not like Jesus' popularity and message. He was seen as a threat to their powerful leadership positions. Jesus knew it was not the right time to confront the Pharisees. Therefore, Jesus and the disciples left Judea and traveled back to Galilee (v. 3). But they had to go through Samaria. Samaria was populated by a mixed people, remnants of the northern tribes who had been taken captive when Israel fell in 722 B.C. The Jews had intermarried with the foreigners causing a mixed race. They used the Pentateuch (first five books of the Bible) and worshipped the Lord on Mount Gerazim to parallel the temple at Jerusalem (4:20). Racially and religiously crossbreeds, the Jews hated them.

With the disciples gone to buy food in the city, Jesus was resting alone at Jacob's well at noon (8). It was the hottest part of the day, but a Samaritan woman came to draw water. She came then to avoid the other women who drew water in the morning and after sundown. Jesus' request for water crossed all barriers (7 – 9). He did not care that she was Samaritan; living in sin; and was in a public place. Everyone needs to hear the gospel. Jesus has a compassionate concern for the lost.

Jesus requested a drink from the Samaritan woman, but she never gives it to him. She uses excuses to not serve him. Jesus' offer of "living water" is translated to mean eternal life (10). The woman misunderstood Jesus' offer of "living water" as literally water. She had a respect for the past that hindered her from seeing the opportunity of the present (11 – 12). Jesus promised that those who drink the living water would never be thirsty again. The "spring of water gushing up" means Jesus will give us a vigorous, abundant life (14). The woman felt her life would be easier if she did not have to return to the well every day.

When the disciples returned, they were shocked that Jesus was taking the time to speak with a woman. A Jewish religious teacher speaking to a female in public was irregular and violated social norms. But they did not question Jesus. The woman left her water jug and went to the city to bid others to "come and see a man who told me everything I had done" (multiple relationships with men) (16 – 26, 29). The Samaritan does not identify Jesus as the Messiah but suggests he may be. Her testimony was instrumental in many other Samaritans coming into a personal relationship with Jesus. Jesus stayed in Samaria at the people's request for two more days (40). They heard Jesus' words for themselves which led to their salvation.

How did Jesus breakdown barriers to reach out to the Samaritan woman? Why did the woman believe Jesus could be the Messiah? What happened as a result?

SANKOFA

HENRY MCNEAL TURNER (1834-1915) (Abbreviated Article)



Turner was born in 1834 in Newberry Courthouse, South Carolina to free black parents Sarah Greer and Hardy Turner. The self-taught Turner by the age of fifteen worked as a janitor at a law firm in Abbeville, South Carolina. The firm's lawyers noted his abilities and helped with his education. However, Turner was attracted to the church and after being converted during a Methodist revival, decided to become a minister. He joined the AME Church and became a licensed minister in 1853 at the age of 19. Turner soon

became an itinerant evangelist traveling as far as New Orleans, Louisiana. By 1856 he married Eliza Preacher, the daughter of a wealthy African American house builder in Columbia, South Carolina. The couple had fourteen children but only four of them survived into adulthood.

In 1858 Turner entered Trinity College in Baltimore, Maryland where he studied Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and theology. Two years later he became the pastor of the Union Bethel Church in Washington, D.C. Turner had become a national figure when in 1863 at the age of 29 he was appointed by President Lincoln to the position of chaplain in the Union Army. Turner was attached to 1st Regiment, U.S. Colored Troops, making him the first African American chaplain in the history of the United States Army.

After the Civil War, Turner returned to Georgia and quickly became active in Reconstruction-era politics. In 1867 he organized for the Republican Party in Georgia and the following year was elected a delegate to the Georgia State Constitutional Convention. In the same year he was also elected to the Georgia State Legislature. Although 27 African Americans were elected to that body, a coalition of white Democrats and Republicans declared the African American members disqualified and refused to seat them.

After many successes and hardships, Turner abandoned politics and moved to Savannah, Georgia where he served as pastor of St. Phillips AME Church. In 1876 he was appointed president of Morris Brown College in Atlanta. Four years later he was appointed a bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Turner became the first AME bishop to ordain a woman, Sarah Ann Hughes, to the office of deacon. He also wrote *The Genius and Theory of Methodist Polity* in 1885 as a guide to the policies and practices of the AME Church.

By the late 1870s Turner became increasingly disillusioned with the inability of African Americans to achieve social justice in the United States. He proposed emigration back to Africa, an idea much discussed in the antebellum period but which all but disappeared during the Civil War and Reconstruction. By 1880 Turner had become one of the leading advocates of emigration, particularly to Liberia. He founded two newspapers, *The Voice of Missions* (1893-1900) and

The Voice of the People (1901-1904) to promote emigration. Between 1895 and 1896, Turner organized two ship voyages to Liberia which carried over 500 emigrants to Liberia. But many of them returned.

Turner also promoted the AME Church abroad. Between 1891 and 1898 he traveled to Africa four times to promote the church in West and South Africa. He also sent AME missionaries to Cuba and Mexico. Although he never completely relinquished his emigrations' ideas and remained in touch with numerous African leaders, Turner increasingly devoted the remainder of his life to church work. He died on May 8, 1915, in Windsor, Ontario, Canada while traveling on AME Church business.

How did Bishop Turner seek to break down barriers to expand the outreach of the church?

Source: Spigner, C. (2007, January 17). Henry McNeal Turner (1834-1915). *BlackPast.org*.
<https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/people-african-american-history/turner-henry-mcneal-1834-1915/>

REAL TALK, FAITH WALK

Jesus and the disciples were traveling by foot from Judea to Galilee. It was a seventy-mile journey that would take 2.5 days. Just like us, Jesus was tired, so he stopped to relax and be renewed at the well in Samaria. Besides your home and the church, where do you go to relax and be renewed? Discuss your responses after you draw pictures of the places on the paper provided. Why is it important to relax and renew ourselves?

PAKISTAN (Do search for map of country)

In Pakistan, the four million Christians are severely abused and suffer many injustices. With 230 million people, Pakistan is the world's fifth most populous nation. It has an officially Islamic system of government, and 98% of Pakistanis are Muslim. Though it is accurate to describe Christians as "second-class citizens" under Pakistan's Islamic law, it is much worse because of the severity of the oppression.

Most Christians in Pakistan are born into economic systems in which, unless they renounce Christ, their only job opportunities will be undesirable, labor-intensive jobs such as cleaning sewage pipes or making bricks by hand. Young Christian women are sometimes forced into Muslim marriages.

What barriers would you have to overcome to share the gospel? Why is it important to share the gospel throughout the world? Speak with your YPD/Missionary Department about outreach ministries in your local community and other countries as well as how to become involved.

Source: *The Voice of the Martyrs (VOM) July 2022, Volume 56 No. 7*

SUMMARY

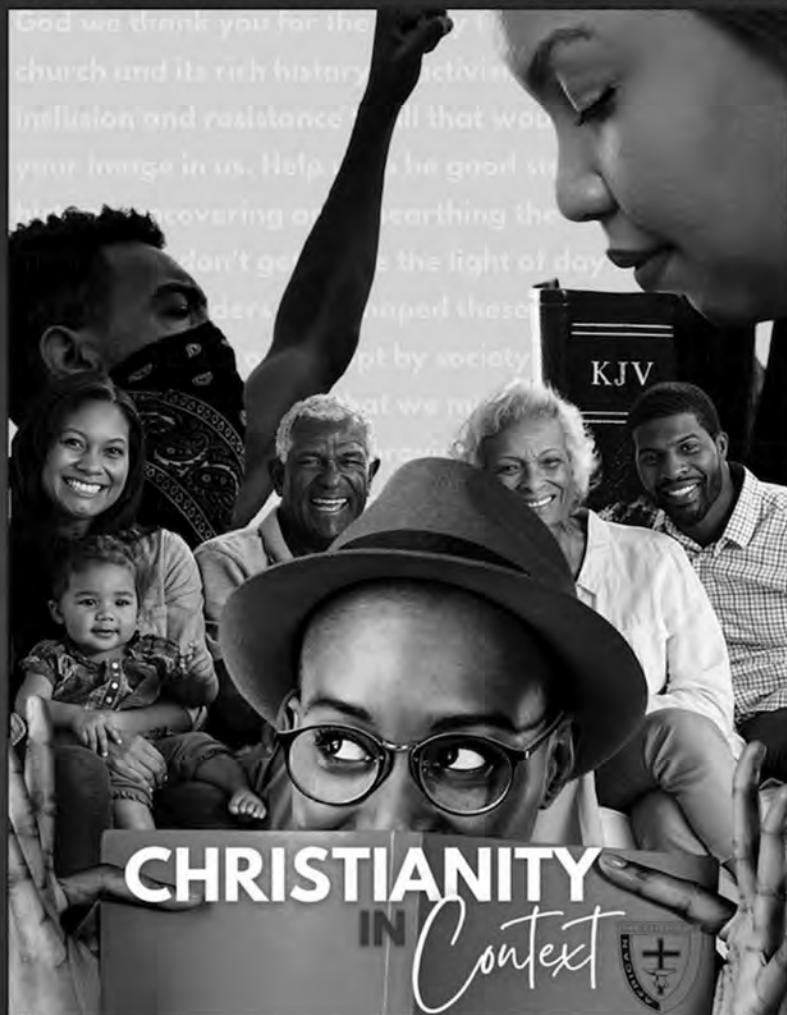
There were many obstacles that could have hindered Jesus from meeting the needs of the Samaritan woman. Jesus broke through the barriers to extend his love, forgiveness, and grace to her. It was the encounter with Jesus at the well that transformed the Samaritan woman's life. She went to tell others that Jesus knew about her life story and urged them to come to Jesus. We have to acknowledge and confess our cultural, social, personal, and religious biases. Only then can we be effective witnesses for Christ. Once you ask for God to forgive you from this day forward, be bold in sharing the love of God with others. Our love reveals to the world the love of God in action.

CLOSING DEVOTIONS

Prayer: God, we love you. As disciples of Christ, we commit to going out into the world and sharing your message of love and forgiveness. The world needs to encounter Jesus Christ, the Savior of all who believe. Amen.

Hymn: "Take My Life, and Let It Be"
(AMEC Hymnal #292)

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