

# Conversations at a Well...

Learning  
to Be Salt in  
Challenging  
Times

**Lesson #2:** August 16, 2020

***“At Least I Beat  
You to the Ground!”***

## **Sermon Notes:**

1. The root of much of our dissention is an assumed superiority and a failure to recognize our common need and brokenness.
2. Giving undeserved grace is the only true response we can offer to God’s generous gift of Christ.
3. We offer that grace by:
  - A. ...giving the benefit of the doubt.
  - B. ...recognizing their need for love (agape), not correction.

## **Weekly Devotional Guide and Sermon Notes for August 16-22, 2020**

### **Monday, August 17 Read Psalm 51:1-19**

David’s cry against his own sinfulness here is universal and timeless. Look closely at v.6. In the midst of our sin, what does God want from us? \_\_\_\_\_

What does this mean in the context of the whole psalm? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is the idea of confession expressed here so important to our worship as well as our engagement with the world? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Tuesday August 18 Read Amos 5:6-15; 21-24**

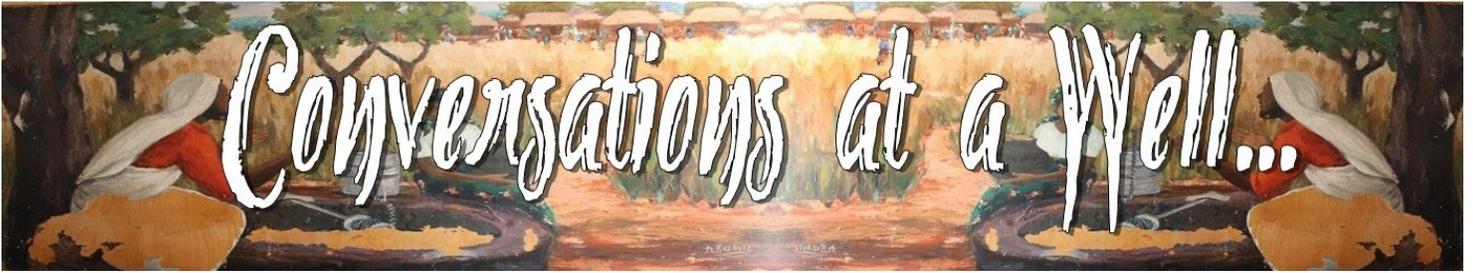
God’s condemnation of Israel through Amos is based on their selfishness- their disregard for the plight of others and their drive to serve themselves above all else. No amount of religious “acting” will hide that fact (v.21-24). Where are we still guilty of tearing down instead of building up, creating divisions

and hierarchies instead of celebrating unity under God? \_\_\_\_\_

Where have you contributed to this trend and how can God help you to change? Will you? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Wednesday, August 19 Read John 4:15-26**

Returning to our conversation at the well, the woman requests Christ’s ‘living water.’ In light of our earlier readings this week, why do you think Jesus shifts the conversation to her lifestyle and personal actions? \_\_\_\_\_



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Note how she tries to get the conversation back to less personal, broadly theological topics! Why does she do this? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is v.23 pivotal in balancing the personal sins of our lives and our doctrinal beliefs? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Thursday, August 20 Read Matthew 18:21-35**

The master's response here in vv.32-34 is extremely harsh which perhaps is designed to drive home the seriousness of the practice of confession and forgiveness. Peter's question in v.21 is really "When can I *stop* being gracious?" How might the attitude of the unforgiving servant parallel the arrogance decried by Amos in Tuesday's reading? \_\_\_\_\_

What excuses or rationales do we give for withholding grace, forgiveness and tolerance? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ What might Jesus say to these reasons?

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**Friday, August 21 Read Romans 1:18-2:11 & 3:21-26**

Most all of us can find something in Paul's list of sinful symptoms of humanity's brokenness here of which we are guilty. This is not a list of sins to condemn and rate but rather a description of the pervasive brokenness of humanity and how far we are from what God demands. To say "all have sinned," is to recognize how needy we all are of grace and mercy. Why is it necessary for us to keep this helpless condition in mind? \_\_\_\_\_

How can it help us in our interpersonal relations? \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday, August 22 Read 1 John 4:7-21**

John draws a simple dividing line through our action, motivations and how we treat one another. Given the readings for this week, what do vv.7-11 tell us about God and about how His presence in our lives should impact those around us? \_\_\_\_\_

Why then, are we often so harsh and ungracious to those who disagree or challenge us? \_\_\_\_\_

Where is God calling you to let His love work more profoundly? \_\_\_\_\_

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