

Conversations at a Well...

Learning
to Be Salt in
Challenging
Times

Lesson #4: August 30, 2020

“Uh Huh”

Sermon Notes:

Scripture: James 1:19-27 (CEV)

1. Faithful listening means first making room for the other in our hearts and heads by:

A. Seeing the other as a priceless recipient of Christ’s love.

B. Remembering that “perception is reality.”

C. Being clear on what we actually know...not on what we assume.

D. Acting last!

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**Weekly Devotional Guide and Sermon Notes
for August 31-September 5, 2020**

Monday, August 31 Read Psalm 141

There is some very real humility and self-awareness in this prayer. Where and when does God need to “set a guard” over your mouth and are you willing to accept loving and faithful correction? _____

Why is it vital, not only in dealing with others but in dealing with God Himself, that we recognize and own up to our heart’s urge to “busy ourselves with wicked deeds (v.4)?” _____

Tuesday September 1 Read Proverbs 18:1-15

The overall advice given here is, of course, to engage our brains before engaging our mouths, much less our actions and a reminder that once we speak or do, it cannot be taken back. Vv. 13 & 15 especially call us to listen carefully and seek true understanding. Despite such common sense, why does it so often go unheeded? _____

What does that tell us about our real desires and goals? _____

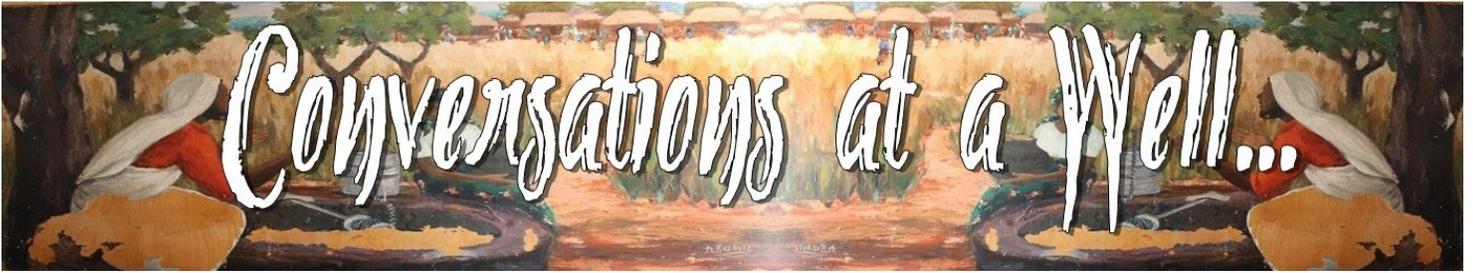
Discuss this tendency in your own life with God in prayer today.

Wednesday, September 2 Read John 4:27-30; 39-42

It’s instructive that the disciples didn’t try to control the situation in v.27, but (even if a bit confused) simply let events play out. What might this tell us about our own encounters with strangers, people with whom we disagree or simply confusing situations? _____

How can we turn control over to God in times like these and why might that be important? _____

Note the result of Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman!



Thursday, September 3 Read James 1:19-27

V. 19 is probably one of the most common-sense bits of advice to be found in the Bible for anyone in any-place! For believers it's a reminder that our words matter as much as our actions and our awareness of those around us. Now look at v.20. What actions and attitudes in your life "produce God's righteousness?" _____

How can you cultivate those things more? _____

Friday, September 4 Read Philippians 2:1-13

In what ways does Jesus model the self-control and graciousness all of the passages this week have been encouraging us to follow? _____

What are some specific ways you can ask God to help you live into the command found here in v.5? _____

Be sure to share your specific struggles in doing that with God in prayer today and listen carefully for His answer.

Saturday, September 5 Read Psalm 15

Righteousness, in this psalm, is explicitly tied to the way we treat the people around us, which makes sense if we remember that righteousness simply means to live God's way. Given this and the other scriptures we've read this week, how would you explain "God's way" to an unbeliever? _____