

Week of April 15-21

## CONNECTING THE DOTS

**Scripture Reading:** Read John chapter 4

Puzzles come in various forms. I'm sure that most folks reading this devotional have, at one time or another, tried to solve a crossword puzzle, complete a word search, unscramble a word jumble, figure out a logic problem or put together a jigsaw puzzle. Often, young children enjoy the challenge of a "Connect the Dots" puzzle. As lines are traced from numbered dot to numbered dot a picture emerges on the page. In our chapter reading today, we witness Jesus connecting the dots for a woman until she sees a picture of herself in need of the salvation he came to offer. It's a beautiful story.

When Jesus met the woman, it was high noon. This was not the normal time to draw water. It indicated her isolation from the other women in the town, probably because of her immoral lifestyle. Jesus reached out to her and asked her for water to drink. This action surprised the woman, for most religious Jews avoided the Samaritans like the plague and many rabbis wouldn't even bother to converse with a woman. Her interest aroused, she began a conversation with Jesus. Step by step, Jesus connects the dots and leads the woman from natural water and thirst to the core of her need, spiritual water and spiritual thirst. She had been married five times and the man she was now with was not her husband. She was trying to fill a void in her life but it wasn't working. She kept hoping the next man to love her would quench the thirst but he didn't. When Jesus was finished conversing with her, though, she discovered the answer to her quest...living water from the Savior. Her witness led to the salvation of the entire town.

Today, people around us are as thirsty as the woman at the well was in Jesus' day. They try to quench the thirst in a variety of ways: relationships, position, power, possessions, food, work, drugs, and alcohol just to name a few. Sadly, as with the woman at the well, the thirst remains. It is only when we drink of the living water Jesus provides that our thirst can be fully satisfied. He is the great thirst-quencher.

So, connect the dots today.

The word "JESUS" is written in a large, stylized, hand-drawn font. The letters are thick and black, with a slightly irregular, artistic feel. The 'J' has a long, sweeping tail that curves under the 'E'. The 'S' and 'U' are also quite large and have a similar hand-drawn quality. The overall appearance is that of a calligraphic or artistic rendering of the name.

**Action Step:** Evaluate your life today in light of today's devotional. Do you see areas where you have been trying to quench your thirst in unhealthy ways?

**Prayer Focus:** Ask the Lord to connect the dots in your life to see areas where you might be attempting to fill your thirst and repent if it's not in Jesus.

**Take-away:** *When we connect the dots, we see JESUS as the answer to our thirst.*