JOHN HILTON III

SEEKING JESUS

Visuals With Points To Ponder
To Help You Find Jesus' Principles

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ALL OF THE VISUALS TOGETHER TO PONDER AND PRESENTATION IN THIS PDF FILE ARE THE INTERPRETATION OF JOHN, THROUGH THE INSPIRED PERSPECTIVE, FOR MY BELOVED IN THE CHURCH JESUS' CHURCH

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JESUS AND INDIVIDUALS

INDIVIDUAL CONNECTION

1 NOTICE that JESUS IS ALL ABOUT INDIVIDUAL CONNECTION AND INDIVIDUAL RELATIONSHIPS.

2 THE SCRIPTURES TELL US HE KNOWS OUR NAMES AND ALL OUR SITUATIONS. THE EVENTS IN OUR LIVES.

by CONNECTING

JESUS LOVES LOOK DEEP INTO ME

3 JESUS MINISTERS IN ONE-BY-ONE CONNECTIONS.

We see this pattern in 3rd Night.

"Jesus took three little children, one by one, and blessed them."

(3 Nephi 17:21)

"The multitude went forth, and thrust their hands into his side, ... going forth one by one." (3 Nephi 11:15).

JESUS LOVES CONNECTION.

ONE-BY-ONE WITH THEM AND WITH ME.

JESUS HAS A LOT OF IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO, BUT WITH HIM IT'S ALL ABOUT THE INDIVIDUAL.

IN THIS CLIPS WE'RE GOING TO EXPLORE A FEW DIFFERENT ACCOUNTS OF JESUS' MINISTRY TO INDIVIDUALS. A SAMPLING OF PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES WERE TOUCHED BY A PERSONAL

CONNECTION WITH CHRIST

CONSIDER

the conversation of CHRIST with

NICODEMUS

Jesus was in Jerusalem and a man named Nicodemus, "A Pharisee, a leader of the Jews, ...came to Jesus by night and said to him,

"Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God" (John 3:1-2, NRSV).

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" (John 3:3-4)

NOTE that Jesus said **"be born again"** in Greek. this phrase has a double meaning. It can mean "be born a second time" or it can also mean "be born from above". In context, Jesus is talking about a spiritual rebirth. Being born from above, but apparently Nicodemus doesn't get it. He interprets it as being born a second time, and so that's why he asked people to entering their mothers' wombs.

JESUS CONTINUES...

"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. ...Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? ...If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?" (John 3:7-9-12)

WE WANT TO HIGHLIGHT THAT JESUS DOES NOT HESITATE TO REBUKE NICODEMUS

JESUS SAYS. *"You're a teacher of Israel and you don't understand these things?* We don't know exactly what kind of voice Jesus was using when he talked to Nicodemus, but this was a rebuke. It's a reminder that in individual relationships

Christ IS NOT AFRAID TO GIVE CORRECTION.

The good news for Nicodemus is that this is not his only encounter with Christ.

In John Chapter 7, Jesus has been teaching at the Feast of Tabernacles. The officials didn't like his words, so they sent some temple police to arrest Jesus, but them officers didn't arrest Christ because of his impressive speaking. The Pharisees said to them, "Are ye also deceived? **Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him?** But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed" (John 7:47-49)

NOTE that these people don't like Jesus, and Nicodemus is present. He could have criticized the Savior, or stayed silent. but instead Nicodemus said,

"Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?" (John 7:50-51).

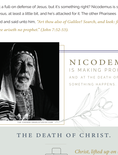
This isn't a full on defense of Jesus, but it's something right? Nicodemus is sticking up for Jesus. at least a little bit, and he's attacked for it. The other Pharisees answered and said unto him, *"Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet." (John 7:52-53)*

NICODEMUS IS MAKING PROGRESS

AND AT THE DEATH OF CHRIST SOMETHING HAPPENS.

THE DEATH OF CHRIST.

Christ, lifted up on the cross, draws Nicodemus to him.



Remember that Christ was crucified as a criminal. He was condemned by the Highest Roman official in the land, so when Christ is on the cross, people who associate with him are putting themselves in danger.

If you associate with the criminal, maybe people will think that you are a criminal as well.

BUT NICODEMUS WASN'T AFRAID TO CONNECT HIMSELF TO CHRIST.

NOTE *In John 19 we read, "Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds" (John 19:39 [NRSV]). The burial spices Nicodemus brings are expensive—they are fit for a king.*

Then Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea "took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews" (John 19:40).

Now, at the end of Christ's Life. Nicodemus is coming to Jesus, **not at night**, but in daylight.

CONSIDER

a prophecy Jesus made shortly before his death.

"When I am lifted up from the earth (meaning crucified), I will draw all people to myself."

(John 12:32, NIV)

Stage Hermann

Perhaps we see in Nicodemus a personalization of this promise. Nicodemus, who once came to JESUS by night, now comes in daylight.

A beautiful set the progression of this relationship.

Stage Hermann

I will draw all people to myself.

(John 12:32, NIV)

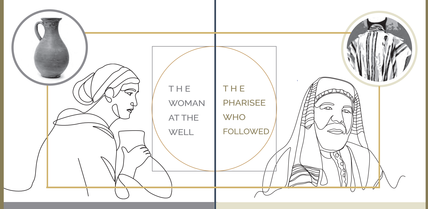
Whenever we are at, even if right now we're not in the best place, **we can continue to grow** in our CONNECTION WITH and CONVERSION to CHRIST.

CONSIDER

another conversation of CHRIST

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

The conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus takes place in John 3. **In the very next chapter**, Jesus has a conversation with a woman at a well in Samaria. **Perhaps we're to study these stories side-by-side** and learn from their similarities and contrasts.



SIMILARITIES & CONTRASTS

NOTE: These are the two **longest conversations** in the New Testament between Jesus and another individual.

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL	THE PHARISEE NICODEMUS
Took place in Jerusalem, the capital of the Jewish religion.	Took place in Samaria, a place of enmity with the Jewish religion.
The woman came to Jesus **in the afternoon.**	Nicodemus came to Jesus **by night,**
A **poor woman** perhaps on the fringe or **margins.**	A **wealthy elite.**

JESUS TEACHES A KEY PHRASE

BUT IT IS MISUNDERSTOOD BY THE WOMAN.

JESUS TEACHES A KEY PHRASE

BUT IT IS MISUNDERSTOOD BY NICODEMUS.

When Jesus says that he has "living water," there are different ways that "living water" could be interpreted. it could be water that gives life—either physical or spiritual.

However the woman interprets Jesus, she's thinking of some type of physical water that Christ is offering her. And she says, ***"There's no way you can get me physical water because you don't have a bucket."***

When Jesus says that all must be born again, there are different ways that "born again" ways that "living water" could be interpreted.

However Nicodemus interprets Jesus, he's thinking of some type of physical rebirth that Christ is offering him. And he says, ***"How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?***

CONSIDER

what these two conversations with CHRIST may teach us. . .

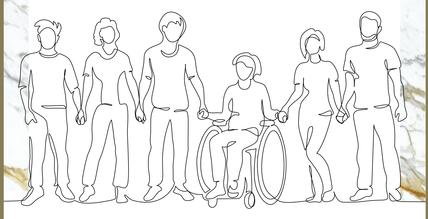
We could learn several lessons from these two conversations, but one that we want to highlight is

Christ's OUTREACH IS FOR ALL!

Whether YOU ARE a wealthy elite or a marginalized person on the fringes, Jesus loves and reaches out to each of us AS INDIVIDUALS.

LIKEWISE

Whoever God places in front of you each day, whether they are a wealthy elite or a marginalized person on the outskirts, we should love and reach out to all AS INDIVIDUALS.

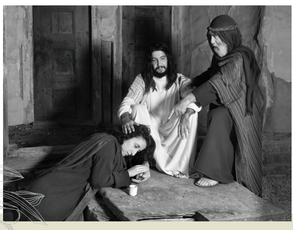


PONDER

the conversation of CHRIST with

SIMON, ANOTHER PHARISEE

Jesus was eating at the home of a Pharisee named Simon. During the meal, "a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood beside him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. **Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment.**



Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, *"If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner."* (Luke 7:37–39, NRSV)

NOTE THAT
SIMON SEEMS TO CATEGORIZE THE WOMAN

He lumps her into the group of "sinners", WHEREAS JESUS **WILL INVITE SIMON the PHARISEE to SEE her differently,** as a person.

SEE DIFFERENTLY

Jesus does this by telling Simon a parable:

"There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?"

Simon answered and said, *"I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most."*
[Jesus] said unto [Simon], *"Thou hast rightly judged."*

And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon,
"Seest thou this woman?"

"Seest thou this woman?"

Let's pause on Christ's question—
DO YOU REALLY SEE THIS PERSON?

If we're not careful, it's easy to slip into the habit of viewing people as categories, or seeing them as objects. But notice this pattern in Christ's ministry:

"When the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her" (Luke 7:13).
"Jesus, looking at him, loved him" (Mark 10:21, NRSV).
"He cast his eyes...on the multitude...and said...my bowels are filled with compassion." (3 Nephi 17:5–6).

When we follow Christ's example of **really SEEING PEOPLE**, it's easier for us to feel love and compassion for others.

CONSIDER

what Jesus is teaching us through his connection with the anointing woman. . .

1. JESUS SEES OTHERS AND URGES US TO SEE THEM AS WELL.
2. JESUS STICKS UP FOR THOSE WHO ARE OBJECTS OF DERISION.
3. JESUS DEMONSTRATES HIS LOVE FOR EACH AND EVERY PERSON.

At times we might feel too far gone for Jesus to reach us.
That's NOT true.

Jesus **EXTENDS HIS MERCIFUL ARM** to all people and hopes we will take hold of his hand.

An overarching lesson we see from today's class is the importance of us following the Savior in a personal ministry. We have church callings, but each of us also has a personal ministry—**individuals to whom the Spirit prompts us to serve.**

When Jesus met the woman at the well, he hadn't been assigned as her ministering brother, **he just ministered to her.** You and I might, metaphorically speaking, have a "chance encounter" with a woman at a well. Or it may be an old friend, a family member, or somebody from a previous ward that the Spirit brings to your mind.

THE SPIRIT will prompt us to know who we can REACH OUT TO in our personal ministry.

COME FOLLOW ME

"Our Personal Ministry is Sacred and Precious.

It allows us to become an extension of ***the Lord's love.*** ***It embraces all who cross our path.*** *What are those things you can do for another person that only you can do?*

I invite you to find out.... Today, you will have immediate opportunities ***to practice your personal ministry."***

President Bonnie D. Parkin

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SEEKING JESUS

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all to help **F I N D** Jesus' Principles

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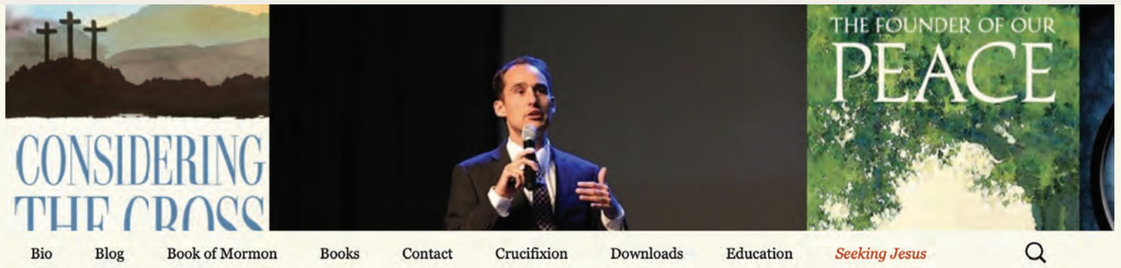

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