



Influencing your Arena | Shawn Johnson | 9.25.22

Weekly Study

SHARE

As Doug said, it's hard to change the world before we let God change our heart. So, to have influence in our arena it begins first with us. On Sunday, Shawn did week three of the sermon series "Let's Go Change the World" with a conversation about normal, ordinary people like us, taking the Gospel to the places beyond the walls of the Church and home. It's not if we can do this, it's that as followers of Christ, we are all called to do this.

Before we jump into the study, take some time to check in with your group and ask the following questions:

- What is the most impactful or challenging thing you learned during Sunday's sermon?
- What did that thing teach you about God? About yourself?

GROW

[Read John 4:1-40](#)

In this Scripture we read a story about a woman who for far too long, had been looking for a man who could fulfill the longing of her soul. She was the woman they whispered about as she passed by being avoided at all costs because she was broken, messy and sinful. So instead of going to the well with the other women in the cooler part of the day, she drew water at the hottest part when she was sure to be alone. Until, that one day the Messiah met her there, in her broken, messy sinful place. Jesus met her there in her sin, revealing himself as the One they all had been waiting for and she was never the same.

We read that for most of their conversation, the woman focused on her physical needs, she was there for the obvious, she was thirsty. When Jesus asks for a drink, she's shocked that a Jewish man is even speaking to her or anyone for that matter. When Jesus says that his water will never leave her thirsty, she thinks he's talking about actual water, but Jesus moves the conversation forward, he is trying to help her recognize that her soul hunger will never be satisfied by anything other than him. Jesus exposes our sin just as he did hers not to shame, but to free us from it.

- **Share of a time where God in his kindness, meet you in your sin to only want to bring you back to him. How did this change you?**

The same woman who let shame and condemnation dictate her schedule drops her water jar and runs toward the town. Imagine her running as she experiences the joy of a soul fulfilled. Because Jesus met her there the only way he does, in truth and grace, she had found living water, and she would never thirst again! And that, she could not keep quiet.

- **When you experienced the true joy of your soul fulfilled by the good news of the Gospel who was the first person/people you shared this with? Why them?**
- **How has her story encouraged you to answer the call on your life to bring the Gospel into your arena?**
- **After meeting Jesus, the woman invites the whole town to come meet him. Who in your life needs to meet Jesus? This week, ask God to show you who and when to share your story with.**

MOVE

Read Galatians 1:10; Revelation 12:11; Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8

This week Shawn charged us to go and change the world by influencing our arena. We read about the woman at the well who's shame, and fear seemed to dictate everything she did. She was chained to her sin until she met Jesus who freed her from all of it and her whole town was changed! God has promised his presence and with that brings great confidence that we have the authority to walk into our arenas that God has intentionally brought us to. Just as the woman at the well, in our brokenness and sin God's greatest desire is to bring real life (John 10:10) to the whole world only found in Jesus and he wants to do this by using us, his people to go change the world!

- **What is keeping you from influencing your arena? Is it fear of criticism? Is it shame?**
- **What are you not believing about who God says he is?**

Because God has promised his presence, we do not need to fear criticism or live in shame of our past. We are called into God's story to make his name known, bringing the only hope to this broken world. Jesus is the only thing that brings great comfort to pain, relationship to loneliness, healing into the brokenness and joy into the sorrow. We hold this and may we go into our arenas this week just as the woman did after she met Jesus, shouting what she just experienced while inviting everyone to come and meet him for themselves. Let's go do this Church! We are together and we have God's promised presence to be with us!

PRAY

Take time to pray together over your arenas of influence this week and for courage to go and make God known.

