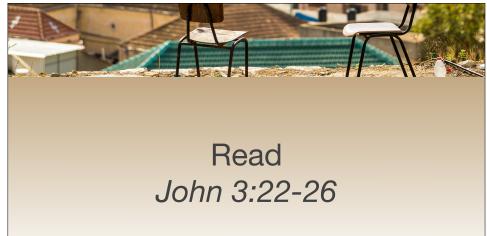




All his credentials and intellect combined couldn't obtain what Nicodemus had been looking for because when it comes to life in Christ, merit doesn't matter.





Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

John 3:36



When it comes to life in Christ, membership doesn't matter.



Believers in Jesus Christ are not people who go to church.

Believers in Jesus Christ are the church.





Jesus broke through barriers of <u>race</u> and <u>gender</u> when He spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well. But perhaps the last obstacle He overcame was the most significant - He struck down her **shame.**



Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2



Then leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?"

John 4:28-29

And many of the Samaritans from the town believed in Him *because of the woman's testimony.*John 4:39



Jesus doesn't <u>cover</u> shame; He <u>converts</u> it to testimony.



When it comes to life in Christ, neither merit, nor membership, nor <u>past mistakes</u> matter.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. According to Webster's Dictionary a synonym for discover is determine. A person who discovers something plays a big part in determining how it is understood or interpreted.

How is this a problem when we apply it to *discovering* who Jesus is? How can we see evidence of this in our world today?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

2. What is the difference between *going* to church and being the church? In what specific ways does that play out in the life of a believer?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

3. The Samaritan woman was the first person in Scripture who whom Jesus revealed Himself as the Messiah. Why do you think He chose that person and that place to first verbally declare the powerful revelation?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

4. Has God powerfully converted any difficulties in your life into a Gospel testimony or ministry?