

△ | NEW MESSAGE SERIES

Embrace the Breaking

**“The fight is here... I need ammunition,
not a ride.” - Volodymyr Zelensky**

Read John 4:7-19

7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” **8** (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?”

(For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

10 Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

11 “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? **12** Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

13 Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, **14** but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

16 He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

17 “I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. **18** The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

19 “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet.

1. The compassion of Jesus for those who are struggling or have failed in marriage.

Marriage is tough. Marriage is a beautiful thing that only reaches what God designed to be through the methodology of a painful process.

**2. Marriage is a struggle
for all who enter it.**

Stanley Hauerwas

“Destructive to marriage is the self-fulfillment ethic that assumes marriage and the family are primarily institutions of personal fulfillment, necessary for us to become “whole” and happy. The assumption is that there is someone just right for us to marry and that if we look closely enough we will find the right person.

The moral assumption overlooks a crucial aspect to marriage. It fails to appreciate the fact that we always marry the wrong person. We never know whom we marry; we just think we do. Or even if we first marry the right person, just give it a while and he or she will change.

For marriage, being [the enormous thing it is] means we are not the same person after we have entered it. The primary problem is...learning how to love and care for the stranger to whom you find yourself married.”

We marry sinners

Sinful people will always be rubbing each other the wrong way and blaming the other person.

We marry a selfish person

We tend to be dogmatic and always sure of every point of our beliefs.

We tend to be fault-finding, prone to self-pity and never satisfied.

We tend to need a lot of praise and are easily offended.

We tend to talk a lot about ourselves and are poor listeners.

We tend to be willful, always insisting on our own way.

We tend to be ungenerous with our praise and encouragement, tending instead to be scornful.

We tend to be slow to admit when we are in the wrong,

We tend to either enjoy confrontation too much, or else refuse to ever do it.

We marry a stranger

What we need then, is not the perfect mate who never changes (there is no such person), but wisdom, the ability to repent, and a sustained commitment to our wedding promises.

Unless Jesus Christ demotes your spouse, moves your spouse out of the center of your life, you're going to struggle. Jesus' ultimate spousal love has to so move you, that you can handle life when your spouse isn't what he or she should be.

There's only one person in the universe who can give my soul what it longs for the most and He awaits me.

**“The fight is here.
I need ammunition.
I don’t need a ride.”**