

# Discipleship Moment

**Sermon Text: John 4:5-42**

I'm worried about my son. I know he's only 16 months old but there is a pattern in his behavior that worries me: whenever we suggest he play with a toy or get a book to read he can't find it. It will be right by his foot and he'll look literally everywhere in the room for the book and won't be able to find it. We could chalk this up to boyish absent-mindedness or toddler underdevelopment. But I know this kid, he is my son, and *that* is precisely why I'm worried—I do the same thing! My wife will tell me to grab the lettuce greens out of the refrigerator and I'll look and can't find it, then she'll walk over, open the fridge and the lettuce is right in the middle of the fridge on top of everything else. Growing up my mother would tease me endlessly about this habit: one of her often-repeated warnings was, "If I come into your room and look for it, will I find it?" I've never been the most observant person and it is obvious my son takes after me.

"What are you looking for?"—This is the question we explored yesterday in the sermon. We heard the story of a woman had been looking for fulfillment in all the wrong places. She was disenfranchised from her community, she was abused (or possibly an abuser), and she was a Samaritan; a second-class citizen. Because of all this disenfranchisement she was searching for fulfillment: she *longed* for fulfillment. She *desired* fulfillment. Jesus casted a new vision for her life: a vision that met all of her needs, that healed her from her hurt, and provided new energy and new *desire*. She then proclaimed this new vision to her community, who believed in Jesus and the Kingdom.

This woman was like my son and I: blindly wandering around looking for something she could not find. She had no idea where it was or even *what* it was that she was looking for. And this is what many people in our communities and churches are like: looking for something we do not even know we want and trying to fill the longing with whatever we can: sex, pride, religion, cars, pretty toys, our families, sport teams, or relationships. We are shaped by these things and they leave us empty again and again.

As we begin the Advent season this is the question that is asked: "What are you looking for?" It is tempted during this time to get excited about gifts at Christmas and savings around Black Friday. But these things will leave us empty. Advent is a time to reflect on where we put our hope and our fulfillment. As we wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus and God becoming man for our benefit, salvation, and holiness we realize that we need to wait on Jesus to fulfill us, rather than look to the things of this world.

Let us wait with patience and joy for the child King Jesus!

## Going Deeper

1. Do you feel like the Samaritan woman? Have you tried to find fulfillment in life and haven't yet? Where have you looked for fulfillment?
2. What have been the results of "looking for love in all the wrong places" in your life? Unhealthy relationships? Addiction? Broken relationships?
3. Why do you think we look for fulfillment in all the wrong things?
4. What are some habits you have that make you long for clothes, cars, relationships, etc.? Do you spend time thinking about and dwelling on those things? When do you think about those things?
5. How can you spend more time dwelling on God's work in the Scripture and your life?
6. Memorize Psalm 1 this week.