

*Monday, March 18, 2019*



**Pictured:** Jaret Kidd, Casey Keating, Madi, Mason Becker, Paul Anderson, Molly Kennedy, Ryleigh Polhemus, Fungai Mumba and Covey.

**John 4:27-42 (NRSV): After Jesus speaks with the Samaritan woman at the well.**

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" <sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup> "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, <sup>[a]</sup> can he?" <sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." <sup>32</sup> But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." <sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup> Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving <sup>[b]</sup> wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, after reading this passage, I feel **ACCEPTED!** Where the disciples were unsure about Jesus speaking to a woman, and a Samaritan at that, you showed that God's word is for everyone.

The people in this passage took a risk in believing what this woman said. You took a risk in talking with her. The woman took a risk in speaking with Jesus. I see myself in these faithful risks. And I also know there are times that I regret not taking the risk to be accepting of others, or to reach out and welcome someone.

Lord Jesus, help me to reach out to new people. Help me remember that God's love really is for everyone. Amen.

*Friday, March 22, 2019*



**Pictured:** Front row- Camille Peterman and Abigail Kidd

Back row- Eva Cross, Ethan Tozer, Jacqueline Cruz, Hugo and Anna Cleveland (advisor).

### **John 5:30-47 (NRSV): Witnesses to Jesus**

<sup>30</sup>“I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge; and my judgment is just, because I seek to do not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

<sup>31</sup>“If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. <sup>32</sup>There is another who testifies on my behalf, and I know that his testimony to me is true. <sup>33</sup>You sent messengers to John, and he testified to the truth. <sup>34</sup>Not that I accept such human testimony, but I say these things so that you may be saved. <sup>35</sup>He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. <sup>36</sup>But I have a testimony greater

than John's. The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. <sup>37</sup>And the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf. You have never heard his voice or seen his form, <sup>38</sup>and you do not have his word abiding in you, because you do not believe him whom he has sent.

<sup>39</sup>"You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. <sup>40</sup>Yet you refuse to come to me to have life. <sup>41</sup>I do not accept glory from human beings. <sup>42</sup>But I know that you do not have the love of God in<sup>[a]</sup> you. <sup>43</sup>I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; if another comes in his own name, you will accept him. <sup>44</sup>How can you believe when you accept glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the one who alone is God? <sup>45</sup>Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. <sup>46</sup>If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. <sup>47</sup>But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?"

**Summary:** *Jesus is frustrated with his disciples and with those people who are beginning to follow him because of their inability to listen and really hear what he is telling them about God and the Kingdom of heaven. The people Jesus is speaking to seem to be self-centered and jockeying for position rather than learning how to follow Jesus more closely.*

**Prayer:** *Lord Jesus, in this passage I see myself all too clearly. I am often the first one to talk and the last one to listen. I struggle to understand how it is I am to follow you without letting my own concerns trip me up and block my way.*

*Jesus, I am the people in this passage. I wonder if you can see the love of God in me. I worry that it seems as though I do not accept you as my Lord.*

*This week Jesus, I ask you to give me the strength to be vulnerable and let you guide me into being a better follower of your way. Amen.*

*Monday, March 25, 2019*



**Pictured:** Ryleigh Polhemus, Maggie Hall, Jacqueline Cruz, Paige Keating, Abigail Kidd, Webb Burke and Yasmyn Gooden.

## **John 7:14-36 (NRSV): After Jesus Heals a Man on the Sabbath**

<sup>14</sup>About the middle of the festival Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach. <sup>15</sup>The Jews were astonished at it, saying, "How does this man have such learning,<sup>[a]</sup> when he has never been taught?" <sup>16</sup>Then Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine but his who sent me. <sup>17</sup>Anyone who resolves to do the will of God will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own. <sup>18</sup>Those who speak on their own seek their own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and there is nothing false in him.

<sup>19</sup>"Did not Moses give you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why are you looking for an opportunity to kill me?" <sup>20</sup>The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is trying to kill you?" <sup>21</sup>Jesus answered them, "I performed one work, and all of you are astonished. <sup>22</sup>Moses gave you circumcision (it is, of course, not from Moses, but from the patriarchs), and you circumcise a man on the sabbath. <sup>23</sup>If a man receives circumcision on the sabbath in order that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because I healed a man's whole body on the sabbath? <sup>24</sup>Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

Is This the Christ?

<sup>25</sup>Now some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, "Is not this the man whom they are trying to kill? <sup>26</sup>And here he is, speaking openly, but they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Messiah?<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>27</sup>Yet we know where this man is from; but when the Messiah<sup>[c]</sup> comes, no one will know where he is from." <sup>28</sup>Then Jesus cried out as he was teaching in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I am from. I have not come on my own. But the one who sent me is true, and you do not know him. <sup>29</sup>I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me." <sup>30</sup>Then they tried to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him, because his hour had not yet come. <sup>31</sup>Yet many in the crowd believed in him and were saying, "When the Messiah<sup>[d]</sup> comes, will he do more signs than this man has done?"<sup>[e]</sup>

Officers Are Sent to Arrest Jesus

<sup>32</sup>The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering such things about him, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent temple police to arrest him. <sup>33</sup>Jesus then said, "I will be with you a little while longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. <sup>34</sup>You will search for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come." <sup>35</sup>The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we will not find him? Does he intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? <sup>36</sup>What does he mean by saying, 'You will search for me and you will not find me' and 'Where I am, you cannot come'?

**Prayer:** *Lord Jesus, after reading this passage in John's gospel, I feel both comforted and empowered. I understand the anger of the people who were trying to live by the law that*

they knew. They didn't yet who you were, Jesus, and that your way always follows the law of love.

Jesus, even with a crowd of people staring you down, you did the right thing. And this passage shows me that acting in love, even when it seems wrong to others, is the right thing to do. This story reminds me that you were human and had to face so many trials – small and large. And even then, you are generous and merciful.

As we move closer to Holy Week, help me to be kinder, more patient, more accepting and more willing to step out to show God's love to others. AMEN.

Friday, March 29, 2019



**PICTURED:** GRAYSON POLHEMUS, SEBASTIAN BRADLEY, FUNGAI MUMBA, BRYCE CODRICK

### **John 8:31-47 (NRSV): Dispute between Jesus and the Religious Authorities**

<sup>31</sup>Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." <sup>33</sup>They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. <sup>37</sup>I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you look for an opportunity to kill me, because there is no place in you for my word. <sup>38</sup>I declare what I have seen in the Father's presence; as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father."<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>39</sup>They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing<sup>[b]</sup> what Abraham did, <sup>40</sup>but now you are trying to

kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. <sup>41</sup>You are indeed doing what your father does." They said to him, "We are not illegitimate children; we have one father, God himself." <sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now I am here. I did not come on my own, but he sent me. <sup>43</sup>Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot accept my word. <sup>44</sup>You are from your father the devil, and you choose to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. <sup>45</sup>But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. <sup>46</sup>Which of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? <sup>47</sup>Whoever is from God hears the words of God. The reason you do not hear them is that you are not from God."

**Prayer:** *Lord Jesus, after reading this passage, I am confused and content. The first part of this passage makes me feel calm and sure of my call to discipleship. I am reminded that knowing God's word and God's will is a way of setting me free to be closer to God. But I also wonder if i don't understand your Words all the time. Even more, I admit, that I don't know your word well. I want to. But I struggle to make that a priority.*

*Jesus, I trust you and I look to you to better understand how to live in the way God wants me to. As we move closer to Holy Week, open my eyes to your word, my ears to your message and my heart to seeking understanding of your will. Amen.*

*Monday, April 1, 2019*



**Pictured:** Back Row: Eva Cross, Ethan Tozer, Jacqueline Cruz, Hugo, Anna Cleveland (advisor)

Front Row: Camille Peterman, Abigail Kidd. Next Photo: Paige Keating, Abigail Kidd, Webb Burke and Yasmyn Gooden

## John 6:1-5: Jesus Feeds the Crowd

**6** After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>2</sup>A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. <sup>3</sup>Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. <sup>4</sup>Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. <sup>5</sup>When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?"

**Summary:** *This story of Jesus feeding the crowd comes after several stories of Jesus healing people and letting the people who see these miracles, especially his disciples, know that he is able to do these things because his authority and power comes from God. Jesus is continuing to show that belief in him changes old laws, thoughts about what is right and understandings about God.*

**Prayer:** *Lord Jesus, this story makes me feel happy and confident in your ability to care for me whether I am hungry, sick or just doubtful. Like the people in this story, I don't always understand your power in my life or in the world. My faith is stretched to think about the miracles you performed. I can't imagine what it would have been like to be the disciple, Phillip, witnessing your power and then being tested. Jesus, I am not a good test-taker and I think I would have disappointed you.*

*In this short passage Jesus, I am grateful for your willingness to care about people who are hungry. Even when I am full, let me remember your generosity and care. Amen.*

*Friday, April 5, 2019*



**Pictured:** Back Row- Casey Keating, James Griffith, Molly Kennedy, Abigail Cleveland, Jaret Kidd. Front Row – Olivia Burke, Mason Becker and Noemi Galeano.

**John 6: 52-59: Debate about “flesh”**

<sup>2</sup>The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" <sup>53</sup>So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; <sup>55</sup>for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

**Prayer:** *Lord Jesus, after reading this passage in John's gospel, I am grateful for your sacrifice. Like the people in this passage, I often find myself questioning you. I don't always understand how your death and resurrection or our participation in communion draw me closer to God. Sometimes that mystery escapes me and I am left wondering and doubting.*

*At the same time, Jesus, I believe that you are the word made flesh and in you is eternal life. As we journey to Holy Week, help me appreciate the sacrifices you have made for us, and recognize you as my redeemer. Amen*