**Week 5 - DWTS Addiction**

**This Week’s** **Overcomer**: The Woman at the Well

**Scripture Reference:** Read John 4:1-30

**Her Scars:** - Sadly, with five previous husbands in her past and a sixth man back at home, the woman at the well more than likely had a reputation which superseded her name. Scholars differ on the reasons why this particular woman may have had 5 different husbands. Some have offered that she was the victim of abuse. Others surmised she was actually a woman of loose virtue, trading one bad relationship for the next. But most telling in her story is that by the time she met Jesus, she was living with a man with whom she was neither legally or ethically partnered with. At this point in history she would have been labeled many things: none of them nice. Her perceived penchant for using sex to fill the emotional, financial, and spiritual voids in her life had rendered her an outcast in the community. But when Jesus met her that fateful day, He did not see a woman trapped by her addiction; He saw a person, rejected and desperate, simply longing to be loved.

**Her Healing:** Addiction comes in many forms. In almost all cases, the addictive behavior is not the true issue – it is the coping mechanism by which we seek to deal with the demons which haunt us. Addiction can seem insurmountable when we seek to free ourselves using our own strength. The reality is addictions and the pain behind them can only be tamed with the resurrection power of Christ; He and He alone possesses the strength to help us to take on the day-by-day struggle to combat our habits and hang-ups. This week’s Overcomer triumphs over her addictive behavior through the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.

Martin Luther King, Jr. is quoted as saying, “*Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase*.” So it is with battling addictions. The woman at the well took one small, but vital step – she allowed Jesus to speak truth into her life. In His gentle but pointed way, Jesus showed her where the source of her pain lay. In her desire to feel safe and loved she had repeatedly turned to what she thought would help her, but instead of soothing her pain, her addictions only intensified it. By allowing Christ to speak truth into her life, the woman at the well opened the door for Jesus to fill the void in her soul and soothe the ache in her spirit. Thus began her recovery. As Dr. King’s quote alludes, battling addictions can be a series of uphill steps, but those who travel with Christ at their side do not climb the staircase alone. As the woman at the well found, there is life-giving water for all who desire Christ’s healing.

**Discussion Questions:**

* What surprises you about this story? Why?
* What is your definition of “addiction”?
* Read 1 Corinthians 10:13-14
  + How might this verse relate the addictions we face?
  + Re-read this portion of the verse: “*And God is faithful;* *he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear*.” What does this mean to you?
  + A follower of Christ has the Holy Spirit to guide and counsel him/her. In light of this, by whose strength can we resist the temptations of addictive behaviors?
  + If it is God’s strength which helps us resist temptation, then is there any limit to what we can bear?
  + How would you reword these verses to reflect your own reality when it comes to resisting temptations?
  + What means might God provide as “ways out” when someone is wrestling with addictive behaviors?
* As a group, how can we encourage one another toward daily victory?