

— SERMON SERIES —

Rising Again

Finding Strength After Failure

God's grace gives
a second chance.



Drop Your Water Jar (October 18, 2026), Shalom Ministries International Worship

Mercy Seat

In the darkness
Where everything is unknown
I face the power of sin on my own
I did not know of a place I could go
Where I could find a way to
Heal my wounded soul

He said that I could come into
His presence without fear
Into the holy place where
His mercy hovers near

I'm runnin' I'm runnin'
I'm runnin' to the mercy seat
Where Jesus is callin' he said
His grace would cover me
His blood will flow freely
It will provide the healin'
Come runnin' to the mercy seat
I'm runnin; to the mercy seat

Are you livin' where hope has not been?
You're lost in the curse of a
Lifetime of sin
Lovely illusions they never
Come true I know where there's a place
Of mercy for you
He said that you could come into his
Presence without fear
Into this holy place
Where his presence hovers near
Come runnin' come runnin'
Come runnin' to the mercy seat
Where Jesus is callin' he said his
Grace would cover you. His blood
Will flow freely it will provide the healin'
Come runnin' to the mercy seat
I'm runnin' to the mercy seat
He said that you could come into his presence
Without fear into the holy place
Where his mercy hovers near



Intercessory Prayer



Pray for the New Ministries



Joshua Baraka founded the church at Lubumbashi (DRC)



Sunday Kalizya will start new ministry at Chisamba (Zambia) in next month



Lazarous Mbewe: Pharez Globa Youth Ministry (Lusaka, Zambia)

A Samaritan Woman at the Well

Now he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 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.) 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." "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob?"

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 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." 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" (John 4:4-15).

The Woman as a Prototype of Humanity

- The woman who met Jesus at the well
 - An outcast who lived in Samaria, intermarried with all kinds of pagan, idolatrous Gentiles.
 - An immoral woman who has been married multiple times and is living in an adulterous relationships at the very time.
 - An ignorant woman who knew nothing about Jesus.
- This woman is an archetype of the sinner seeking salvation
 - **Universal thirst**, seeking ultimate satisfaction, peace, identity, or love in broken, temporal places that leave us empty.
 - **The need for divine revelation**: She represents how human religious or social heritage (Jacob's well, Mount Gerizim) cannot save. It takes a direct, personal encounter with Jesus, who reveals both her hidden condition (v. 18) and His own true identity as the Messiah (I, the one speaking to you—I am he, John 4:26).
 - **Grace reaching the disqualified**: Jesus routinely breaks boundaries to offer salvation to those who are spiritually or socially marginalized. She highlights that no background, past failure, or moral brokenness places a person beyond the reach of Christ's living water.

Unexpected Encounter vs. Divine Appointment

- The divine necessity
 - Now he had to go through Samaria (John 4:4).
 - Jesus' route was dictated not by geography or convenience, but by a divine imperative.
- The human unexpectedness
 - "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (John 4:9).
 - She came expecting heat, physical labor, isolation, and silence. Instead, she encountered a thirsty traveler who knew her full story and offered her eternal life.
- Sovereign initiative (God seeking sinners)
 - Jesus intentionally dismissed His disciples into town to buy food so He could have a 1-on-1 pastoral conversation without cultural pressure or judgment from the disciples.
 - She was not actively seeking God that day; God in Christ was actively seeking her. This highlights God's grace taking the initiative long before a sinner turns toward Him.
 - God's preparedness overrides our unreadiness.



The Road to A Second Chance

- A second chance requires honest diagnosis
 - He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back” (John 4:16).
 - Repentance begins when we stop pretending. Jesus commands her to call her husband so she can stop wearing a mask and stand before God in complete truth.
- Jesus uncovers sin to heal it, not to weaponize it
 - When Jesus brings up her past, it is never to rub her face in it, but to wipe her record clean.
 - “I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. 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” (John 4:17-18).
- Grace turns our secret shame into our public story
 - The woman came to the well hoping no one would see her.
 - “Sir, I can see that you are a prophet (John 4:19)....” “He told me everything I ever did.” (John 4:39).
 - She left the well wanting everyone to hear her story. A second chance transforms a fugitive of shame into an ambassador of grace.

The Second Chance Proofs

The Encounter

The Transformation

The Mission

- She left the water jar
 - Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people (John 4:28).
 - The water jar represented her old life, her old thirst, and her reason for hiding. Leaving the jar behind is the way of showing a break with the past.
- The relationship with her community
 - **Before**: She drew water at noon (the hottest hour) because she was avoiding the townspeople's stares, whispers, and judgment
 - **After**: She runs straight into the heart of the village—to the very people she was hiding from—and shouts, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did!" (John 4:29).
 - Her past no longer held power over her.
- Jesus offers grace through living water
 - By offering her Living Water that leads to eternal life, Jesus is explicitly offering her a restored relationship with God.

Result: Moves From Sinner to First Evangelist

- Recommissioned into apostolic witness
 - “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did” (John 4:29).
 - “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” (John 1:39).
 - “Come and see,” said Philip (John 1:46).
 - She becomes the very first personal evangelist recorded in John's Gospel.
- She was commissioned as an ambassador
 - Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony.
 - Jesus did not just forgive her in secret and send her away; He entrusted her with His mission.
 - They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world ” (John 4:42).
 - God gives a second chance to make us useful. The ultimate proof of her second chance is that Jesus turned a disqualified outcast into His chief ambassador in Samaria.
- She shows the ultimate result of a second chance
 - She doesn't remain a passive subject of grace; her second chance instantly transforms her into an active witness who leads an entire city to the Savior of the World.

Three Memorable Moments

- Responding to God's grace
 - Drop your water jar (surrendering false source of security)
 - That jar represented her old routine, her physical coping mechanisms, and her attempt to satisfy spiritual thirst with temporary things.
 - To fully embrace a second chance, we must lay down the water jars we have relied on—whether that is self-reliance, performance, toxic relationships, or hidden habits.
- Walk out of the shadow of shame
 - Before meeting Jesus, she avoided people by coming to the well alone at noon. After meeting Jesus, she ran straight into the town to speak openly with the very people she used to fear.
 - A second chance means your past no longer defines your present. When Jesus exposes your past, He does it to clean it, not to hold it over your head. Stop living as a fugitive of your past mistakes and start living as a forgiven child of God.
- Becoming an ambassador of the second chance
 - The moment she received grace, she didn't keep it to herself—she immediately became the first evangelist to Samaria, bringing her whole community to Jesus.
 - Receiving unmerited grace imposes a holy responsibility: we must extend that same unmerited grace to others.

I am an Ambassador for Christ by Paul Musembi

[Verse 1]

In Christ I'm made a brand-new creation,
The old has passed, behold transformation;
God reconciled me through Christ His Son,
And gave me a message for everyone.

[Chorus]

I'm on a mission, committed to the Vision,
On earth I represent Jesus with conviction;
I proclaim salvation, His name I adore,
I'm Christ's ambassador, empowered evermore.

[Bridge,]

We have a ministry of reconciliation,
To bring the world to Christ, the Hope of salvation.

[Verse 2]

God made Him sin who knew no sin,
That in Him God's righteousness we'd win;
As though God Himself were calling through me,
"Be reconciled to God," come and be free.

[OUTRO]

I am an ambassador, an ambassador for Christ!
I am an ambassador, to proclaim His life!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7_k4RRUHs0