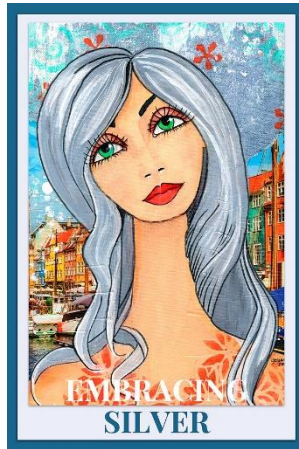




Embracing Silver



Details of Artwork:

Dated: July 2020

Author: Yobeth Puckett, Artist

Media: Mixed Media Acrylic

Based on: John 4:6-42

Characteristics: Witness

Synopsis:

This mixed media piece began with a gorgeous cityscape in the background. I chose it because the blue, turquoise, red-orange, orange, and yellow houses nestled beside the waterway lead me to imagine the hustle and bustle of big city life. The woman in this story is not named, however, we know she's not a pillar of society. The text points out that she came to draw water "about the sixth hour" when the other women would have already gone home. Her interaction with Jesus was quite astonishing at the time. She's a perfect example that no one is ever too sinful to be saved and no matter how vile your sin was you can still witness.

Story: In John 4:1-42, we meet an adulterous Samaritan woman that came to draw water from Jacob's well about the sixth hour. She noticed a man sitting on the well. She was filled with dread because she could tell he was a Jew. It was bad enough that she was shunned by other women because of her lifestyle but Jew's were self-righteous and made her feel like dirt beneath their shoes.

Jesus said to her, "Give me to drink". The Samaritan woman was shocked that he spoke to her. She asked him why he, being a Jew, asked for a drink from her, a Samaritan and said, "Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans".

Jesus continued to talk to her but didn't answer her questions directly. Her questions were about "physical" things, but he spoke to her about spiritual matters. Although he initially asked her for a drink in verse 10, he told her if she knew the gift of God (Jesus) she would ask him for a drink, and he would have given her living water. She had come looking for water to meet her physical needs but she found Jesus who met all her needs, physical and spiritual.

She continued asking him questions and he continued dealing with her.

He then gets to the heart of the matter when he points out her sin in verse 16, "Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither". In verse 17 she admits she has no husband. Jesus said unto her, "Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that sadist thou truly". It was then she thinks that he must be a prophet.

Jesus continues dealing with her until she realizes that that he must be the Messiah she's heard about. In verse 25 she says, "I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things". And in verse 26, "Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

At this point, the disciples returned and began questioning Jesus about talking to the woman. But the woman left her water pot, immediately went her way into the city. She told the men about Jesus and beckoned them to come meet him.

History: Samaria had once been part of the northern Hebrew kingdom, Israel. When Israel fell in 722 B.C., the Assyrians deported most of the Jews and resettled the area with people from other lands. These people adopted the God of the Jews while holding onto their old deities. Even though they claimed allegiance to God they were rejected by "pure" Jews. The Jews felt a great hostility toward Samaritans.

It was also unusual for a Jewish Rabbi to speak to any woman directly much less a Samaritan woman. In John 4:27 His disciples returned, and the scripture says they "marvelled that he talked with a woman;"

Memory Verse:

Proverbs 25:11 "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver".

Jesus didn't always answer the questions the woman asked but gave her what she needed. He dealt with her, and other sinners in the Bible, much differently than the religious crowd.

The Lord knows just how to deal with each individual which brings this scripture to my mind, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver."

Another Story: By contrast, in John 3 is Nicodemus, a Pharisee, a ruler of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night. He was saved but feared being found out. Maybe he was afraid he'd lose his position or friends. As far as we know, he never led one person to the Lord.

What about YOU?

PS: I called her Embracing Silver for two reasons. First, because the Lord knows which words are the ones that will pierce our hearts. Secondly, because women in the USA today are given the notion we must always look young. We need Botox, fillers, hair dye, facelifts, any & everything that will hinder the aging process but men are said to get better with age. What a wicked lie to tell women that they're "less than" if they have wrinkles and grey hair! We should take a cue from cultures that recognize their elders for the wisdom they can impart and cherish the memories they can pass down to our youth.