

# **GOD OF ENCOUNTERS**

**OPEN UP**



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# WHAT IS AN ENCOUNTER

A divine appointment with God  
– a meeting with His person,  
His presence, His power.

# Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

## **John 4:1 - 41**

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.".... The woman said, "I know that the Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."...

Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" They came out of the town and made their way toward him. Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." So when the **Samaritans came to him**, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days.

And because of his words many more became believers... 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."**

# PURPOSE OF ENCOUNTERS

- To know God
- To strengthen our witness
  - To the body of Christ
  - To the world

# ADVANTAGES OF ENCOUNTERS

- Anchor
- Encourage
- Transformation
- Direction
- Acceleration

# HOW WE SABBOTAGE OUR ENCOUNTERS



- Failure to RECOGNISE encounters
- Failure to STEWARD encounters
- Failure to ACT ON encounters





# ENCOUNTERING OPPOSITION

- Logic
- Religion
- Tradition
- Unbelief
- Fear



**\*\*Get comfortable with the tension and mystery\*\***

# KEYS TO ENCOUNTERS

- **HUNGER AND THIRST**

- ***Jeremiah 29:13*** “You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.”

- **BROKENESS**

- ***Psalms 51:17*** “The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.”

# EPHATHA, OPEN UP!

## **REV 3: 19 – 20**

Those I love, I rebuke and discipline. Therefore be earnest and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with him, and he with Me.