

**February 1, 2009**

Rev. James Holeman, Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Salt Lake City

"Encountering Jesus: Authentic Relationships"

"People have the desire to be both acknowledged and validated. But are their relationships 'authentic'?"

How does Jesus treat the Samaritan woman at the well? Does their encounter change her? How?

James believes that 'more often than not, encounters with Jesus come from encounters with other believers.'

Read the story for yourself, ~ John 4:1-26 ~ and see how the Samaritan woman was validated, how Jesus acknowledged her, and what she took away from Encountering Jesus.

*"James Holeman's father was in the military, allowing James to see firsthand different cultures and places every three years (ranging from Japan to Germany). One constant in this upheaval was experiencing the church family or body of Christ, surrounding and welcoming his own family wherever they were. The analogy of the "body of Christ" or the "family of God," with Christ at the head; the idea of Christ in true relationship with those he loves; strongly influences James' understanding of God even today. James has worked with youth of the church for 9 years and has recently received his MDIV from the Seattle campus of Fuller Theological Seminary. He, his wife Vicky, and 2 year old Jack moved to Utah in 2008 to accept a call as Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Salt Lake City."*

