

**THE GOSPEL CALLS US TO INTENTIONALITY: DO I EMBRACE THOSE THAT OTHERS AVOID?**

Q: Who were the Samaritans?

A: Racially mixed group (Jew & Gentile). Samaria fell to the Assyrians in 722 B. C. who forcibly resettled other conquered people who intermarried with the only people left: the poorest of the poor Israelites.

Insights on Jesus, racism, & evangelism:

- Gospel opportunities are often found in cross-**cultural** contexts – 4:1-6
- Times of **physical** exhaustion can provide gospel opportunities – 4:6  
*Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.*

- Jesus **intentionally** engages in a culturally off-limits conversation – 4:7-26
  - She tries an old ethnic/racial argument – 4:11-12

<sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"<sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.

- Jesus goes from the natural to the spiritual – 4:13-14

<sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

- We're naturally interested in life-**enhancement**: we think horizontal not vertical – 4:15

*The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."*

- We naturally raise intellectual smokescreens to **distract** from our lifestyle – 4:16-20

<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."<sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband';<sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."<sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet."<sup>20</sup> Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship."

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- Jesus isn't **sidetracked** by smokescreens – 4:21-26

<sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." <sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." <sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

### Seekers

- Willingness to **follow** Truth will change your life and those around you – 4:39-42

<sup>39</sup>Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." <sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup>They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."

### Reachers

- Don't let **lesser** issues distract you from Greater goals – 4:31-34

<sup>31</sup>Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." <sup>32</sup>But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." <sup>33</sup>So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work."

- Don't be **discouraged** by time-lapse in-between sowing and reaping – 4:35-38

<sup>35</sup>Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. <sup>36</sup>Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup>For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' <sup>38</sup>I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

- Passion for God's glory and love for people beats racism every time.
- "There is no one so bad they can't be saved and no one so good they need not be saved" – Adrian Rogers – 4:46-54

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