

## Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

John 4:1-42

April 11, 2021

**For Jesus it was not always what was convenient or quick.**

Verse 4 tell us He “had” to go through Samaria! Why? Because of God’s Will and Plan.

Because the Pharisees were trying to incite competition between Jesus and John the Baptist (John 3:25–30), Jesus left Judea and started north for Galilee. He could have taken one of three possible routes: along the coast, across the Jordan and up through Perea, or straight through Samaria. Orthodox Jews avoided Samaria because there was a long-standing, deep-seated hatred between them and the Samaritans.<sup>1</sup>

We, me included, often get so focused and busy that we miss what God may be up to. Don’t get so busy or focused that we miss what’s going on around us. I can be guilty of this, how about you? I am a task/list person and with a purpose in mind, I so often miss opportunities. It’s not that God doesn’t give them to me, it’s I don’t see them. Jesus intentionally went thru Samaria to meet with the Samaritan woman.

Today may our prayer be, “God help me to look for opportunities to show grace and love to others.”

Look where God is at work and join him. ~ **Henry Blackaby**

**Jesus intentionally engaged the woman despite cultural norms (v 7).**

The Samaritans were a mixed race, part Jew and part Gentile, that grew out of the Assyrian captivity of the ten northern tribes in 727 B.C. Rejected by the Jews because they could not prove their genealogy, the Samaritans established their own temple and religious services on Mt. Gerizim. This only fanned the fires of prejudice. So intense was their dislike of the Samaritans that some of the Pharisees prayed that no Samaritan would be raised in the resurrection! When His enemies wanted to call Jesus an insulting name, they called Him a Samaritan (John 8:48).<sup>2</sup>

**Make it a prayer that we would engage others; don’t get so focused!**

How can we engage others?

- Pray

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<sup>1</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [\*The Bible exposition commentary\*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 299). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

- Be aware
- Live intentionally
- Ask questions
- Find common ground

When our focus is walking with Jesus and knowing Him then we will be able to engage others, not look at their faults.

A lady went to her Pastor and said "Pastor, I won't be going to your church anymore." The Pastor responded "But why?" The lady said "Ah! I saw a woman gossiping about another member; a man that is a hypocrite; the worship team living wrong; people looking at their phone during service; among so many other things wrong in your church." The Pastor replied "OK. But before you go, do me a favor: take a full glass of water and walk around the church three times without spilling a drop on the ground. Afterwards, leave the church if you desire." The lady thought: too easy! She walked three times around the church as the Pastor had asked. When she finished she told the Pastor she was ready to leave.

The Pastor said, "Before you leave I want to ask you one more question. When you were walking around the church, did you see anyone gossiping?" The lady replied "No." "Did you see any hypocrites?" The lady said "No." "Anyone looking at their phone?" "No." "You know why?" "No."

"You were focused on the glass, to make sure you didn't stumble and spill any water. It's the same with our life. When we keep our eyes on Jesus, we don't have time to see the mistakes of others. We will reach out a helping hand to them and concentrate on our own walk with the Lord." ~ **Unknown**

**Jesus was patient with the woman, her questions and her lack of understanding.**

We have never been more like Jesus than when we are patient with people (convicting for me). Just how patient has Jesus been with you and with me?

**An encounter with Jesus changes you and others are affected. (vs. 39-42).**

**Prayer Focus:**

- **I would not be so focused that I miss God working.**
- **I would intentionally engage others.**
- **I would be patient.**
- **I would let others know what Jesus has done for me.**