

Sermon: Jesus Meets Unlikely People

Bible Passage: John 4:7-42

1. Jesus goes to Samaria (unlikely place) (4:4)

- (a) King Omri named the capital Northern Kingdom “Samaria” (1 Kings 16:24)
 - (b) Assyrian king Sargon II captured Samaria in 722 BC
 - (c) During Persian time, Samaria was ruled by governors from the family of Sanbalat
 - (d) Ezra and Nehemiah rejected their offer to join them in the building of Jerusalem Temple
 - (e) Samaritans erected a rival temple on Mount Gerizim which was destroyed by John Hyrcanus in 128 BC
 - (f) They developed their religious heritage called “Samaritan Pentateuch”
 - (g) Herod the Great changed the name of Samaria to “Sebestieh”
 - (h) Jews of Judah and Samaritans had both political and religious rivalry
 - (i) Samaritans waited for “the prophet like Moses” (Deuteronomy 18:15-18), who was called “Taheb” or “Restorer” who would restore worship of Jehovah in Mt. Gerizim
- Sixth hour (unlikely time) (4:6)

2. Jesus develops a conversation with a woman (unlikely encounter) (4:7-26)

- (a) A Samaritan (historical, religious, and social animosity existed between the Judeans and Samaritans)
- (b) A woman with a questionable reputation (five divorces!)
 - (b1) Lonely with an empty pot
 - (b2) Religious but devoid of understanding how God works
 - (b3) Messed-up relationships

3. Jesus offers Himself to her—the Living Water (unlikely demand and offer) (4:11, 13-14)

- (a) Empty pot
- (b) Empty religion
- (c) Empty relationships

4. Jesus’ meeting with the Samaritan woman transforms her life (4:28-30, 39-42)

- (a) Compare Samaritan woman with Nicodemus
- (b) Samaritan woman introduces Jesus to her own people

5. Jesus tells that this is part of the “harvest”—pre-harvest fruit (34-38)

6. Take Away

Do not let your prejudices prevent you from reaching out to people around you because, Jesus accepts every one