



September 4, 2016
Celebration · 9:00 am
Elevation · 11:00 am
Pastor David Mitchell

CULTURE, JESUS & YOU

John 4 · Looking At People Through the Eyes of Jesus

We need to overcome barriers with people. John 4:1-6

Vs. 4 *And He had to pass through Samaria.*

Differences Jesus overcame:

- Race/Ethnic: Jew and Samaritan
- Gender: Man and woman
- Sexuality: Jesus is holy, she has had multiple men.
- Religious practices: Jews in Jerusalem and Samaritans in Mt. Gerizim
- Historical grudges: Past resentment from attacks between Jews and Samaritans.
- Personal feelings:
 - I am too busy. Vs. 3, 4
 - I am too tired. Vs. 6
 - I am fearful. Vs. 7, 9
 - I am too uncomfortable with her/him. Vs. 7
 - They are too sinful for me to connect with. Vs. 17, 18

We must approach people like Jesus. John 4:7-38

Be willing to connect with people that society, the church, or even other Christians, treat as outcasts. John 4:7-9

Vs. 9 *"Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him, 'How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?' (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)"*

Remember we are here to offer the "living water" of Jesus to renew their lives. John 4:10-15

Vs. 14 *"...but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."*

John 7:38, 38; Isaiah 12:3, 4; Revelation 22:6

We must love people like Jesus regardless of their life situation. Like with this woman, Jesus knows everyone's sinful condition and still reaches out in love through us. John 4:16-18

Vs. 18 *"...for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband..."*

Our priority is to invite anyone to God's eternal kingdom through forgiveness in Christ as we walk in the "spirit and truth" of Christ. John 4:21-38

Vs. 24 *"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*

Vs. 34 *"Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.'"*

Vs. 36 *"Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together."*

Digging Deeper:

We are beginning a new series today called **Common Ground**. There are so many issues in our society that are dividing us in our country and our churches. As we view the world through the eyes of Jesus, we will unite together in how we reach people with the Good News today. Come each week to discover a gospel-centered response of confidence and compassion as we explore the following topics through the life of Christ and the truth of the Bible.

- September 4 Culture, Jesus, and You · David Mitchell | Senior Pastor
- September 11 Irrelevant and Extreme · David Kinnaman | Barna Group
- September 18 Marriage, Family, and Relationships · Matt Davis | Marriage + Family Pastor
- September 25 Life, Death and the Defenseless · Eric Wakeling | Executive Pastor
- October 2 Race, Prejudice, and Equality · Lamont Hartman | Emmaus Church
- October 9 Islam and the Middle East - Global Weekend · Berat Gegas | Kosovo Hope
- October 16 Wealth, Poverty, and Social Justice · Eric Wakeling | Executive Pastor
- October 23 Love, Sexuality, and LGBTQ · Sean McDowell | Biola University
- October 30 Politics, Culture, and Kingdom · David Mitchell | Senior Pastor

Join us each Wednesday at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall for **Common Ground Conversations** to dig deeper into the previous Sunday's sermon through a panel discussion with pastors & special guests. Discover more at calvarylife.org/series

Historical background for John 4:

The woman Jesus encountered lived in Samaria, the central part of Israel. Samaria was the capital of the northern kingdom known as Israel, in contrast to the southern Kingdom called Judah, with Jerusalem as its capital. This northern kingdom was defeated and taken captive by Assyria around 722 B.C (2 Kings 17). After the men of Assyria settled into Israel, they married Jewish women creating a mixed race of Gentile and Jews. These people became known as Samaritans. As a result, pagan worship was practiced. In time the Samaritans returned to the true God but worshiped Him on Mount Gerizim, not at Jerusalem. After 400 B.C. the Jews destroyed the temple in Samaria which worsened the relationship between the Jews and Samaritans. Jews and Samaritans treated each other with disdain. It was wrong for a Jew to talk to or eat with a Samaritan. Samaritans were treated as if dirty and repugnant to the Jew. So, against this cultural and historical backdrop, it is remarkable that Jesus would have any dealing with this woman.

LifeGroup Discussion:

What people do you find it difficult to connect to? Consider the differences on the front of the outline.

As you consider Jesus' interaction with this Samaritan woman, how should you connect with people in your life?

From John 4:10-15, how can you refresh others with the "living water" of Jesus? How do words of blame, criticism, sarcasm, judgement affect the refreshing "living water" of Jesus?

From John 4:16-18, Jesus already knew her story. How much did Jesus love her to know her immorality and yet still seek her out? How important is it to understand the story of people's lives to fully connect with them? Do you agree that you can love another like Jesus did and still not compromise your biblical beliefs? Why?

From John 4:21-38, what was Jesus primary goal as He loved other people? What should be your goal in loving people? Are differences in politics, race, historical grudges, kinds of sin or your personal feelings interfering with achieving the eternal will of God for people? What steps will you now take to remove any obstacles to loving others like Jesus does?

Next Steps:

Cultivate the Fruit of the Spirit: Use the bookmark in today's bulletin and place it wherever you will be reminded most often to be prayerfully growing in these qualities as you depend on the Spirit to produce this fruit in your life.

Join us this Wednesday, September 7, at 7:00 pm: Come dig deeper into this area through a panel discussion with insights from Tim Muehlhoff's book "I Beg To Differ" on navigating difficult conversations with truth and love.

Attend The Table Conference: Take part in this 2-day event, September 16-17, at Biola University to learn from over 20 Christian scholars about race, social media, gender, immigration, political responsibility, art, beauty, affluence, reconciliation, interpersonal conflict, leadership and more. Register at calvarylife.org/table for only \$25 by using the code *Table16CalvarySA*



CONNECT.GROW.REACH
1010 N. Tustin Ave. | Santa Ana | CA

phn | 714.973.4800
web | calvarylife.org