

## John 4:1-27

### Jesus the Outlier

#### Background on the Samaritans

- Assyrians exiled the 10 northern tribes. Repopulated with a variety of other people mixed with some of the left behind. Inter-marriage would occur with a variety of gods and religious practices.
- Eventually Judaism would prevail, however the Samaritans would reject anything written after Deuteronomy, worship was on mount Gerizim and Jerusalem was scorned.
- When the temple in Jerusalem was being rebuilt, help from the Samaritans was explicitly refused and then the Samaritans actually tried to inhibit the rebuilding of the temple. (Ezra 4)
- Alexander the Great ~330 BC made Samaria a base of operation because he knew they hated the Jews.
- 128 BC, Jews attacked and burned Shechem and destroyed the temple Gerizim.
- The Jews hated the Samaritans more than the Gentiles. They polluted the truth. At least the Gentiles could be dismissed because of ignorance.
- Rabbi: Let no man eat of the bread of the Samaritans, for he who eats their bread is as he who eats swine's flesh.
- Most of the time, Jews would add three days of travel by going east to Jericho, crossing the Jordan, going north, crossing the Jordan again, and then coming into Galilee.

#### Background on women in this society

- Women had only slightly more rights than a feral dog.
- Married men would rarely even talk to their wives in public. Single men would never talk to a woman in public.

#### Background on the Samaritan woman

- Women had to draw the water. Wells became a social place for them.
- Drawing water a mid-day = social outcast, avoiding everybody.
- It is also believed that the well she is at is ½ mile outside of town. The town would have had a well.

#### “Living water”

1. Jesus does not let other people's opinion and social standards dictate his behavior. He does not give into peer pressure. Or any pressure for that matter.
  - a. How many times in our teenage years (or later) did we let the “crowd” dictate our behavior?
2. Jesus treats all people with respect.

What people groups do we “shy” away from?