

A Jews and Samaritans:

❖ The story of the Samaritans. John 4:1-7.

- To avoid tensions between John's followers and his own, Jesus decides to go from Judea to Galilee, passing through the region of Samaria (Jn. 4:1-4).
- On the way, Jesus stops about a mile from Sychar, where Jacob had bought a piece of land that he had given as an inheritance to Joseph (John 4:5; Gen. 33:18-19; Josh. 24:32). Once there, Jesus sits down by Jacob's well. It was midday, the hottest time of the day (John 4:6).
- While the disciples go to buy food, a Samaritan woman comes to the well to draw water. She hides from the others, she does not want to be seen or to associate with the other women who, early in the morning or at dusk, go to draw water (John 4:7-8).
- Prejudices raised by so many centuries of history prevent women from speaking or offering their water to a Jew.
- What are some prejudices in your own culture that might hinder your witness to others? How can you overcome them?

❖ The Samaritan woman and the thirsty Jew. John 4:7-14.

- Since the woman was not willing to engage in conversation, Jesus decides to break the ice by asking for a favor: "Give me a drink" (Jn. 4:7).
- In response, the Samaritan woman reminds him of the two reasons why Jesus should not ask her for favors, or even speak to her: she was a woman and a Samaritan (Jn. 4:9).
- At least he had managed to start the conversation. As with Nicodemus, Jesus got straight to the point: "I am someone special, and I can give you water to quench all thirst" (John 4:10).
- Like Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman intended to interpret his words literally (John 4:11-12). Jesus kindled in her the desire to obtain that living water (John 4:13-15).
- Are you thirsty for the water that quenches the thirst of your soul? Jesus offers it freely (Rev. 21:6).

B The Samaritans accept the Savior:

❖ Thirst for living water. John 4:15-16.

- When He got the woman's attention, Jesus did not directly answer her request. If she wanted the living water, she had to come with her "husband" (John 4:16).
- Suddenly, all his sins flashed through his mind.
- How do you react when God confronts you with your sin? Do you avoid the situation, or do you hand it over to Him for forgiveness?

❖ Discovering the Savior. John 4:17-26.

- The first reaction was denial: "I have no husband" (John 4:17). But Jesus showed her that he knew her intimate life. At this, the woman recognized him as a prophet (John 4:17-19).
- For the second time, the woman attempted to avoid any reference to her sin, leading Jesus into a theological dispute over whether they should worship in the temple in Jerusalem, or on the ruins of the temple on Mount Gerizim (John 4:20).
- Patiently, Jesus answered her question and led her to decide to be a true worshiper of God (Jn. 4:21-24).
- Now, the Samaritan woman asked Jesus for a clarification that expressed her thoughts: Was He a prophet, or the expected Messiah? (John 4:25). She was the only woman who heard Jesus declare Himself to be the Christ, the expected Messiah (John 4:26).
- How did you discover Christ and accept Him as your Savior?

❖ Proclaiming the Savior. John 4:27-42.

- The disciples' arrival interrupts the conversation. The woman, filled with joy, forgets her water jar (the reason she went to the well) and returns to Sychar (John 4:27-28).
- Knowing what was going to happen next, Jesus prepared his disciples. First, he showed them that there is something more satisfying than physical food: the joy of sharing salvation with others (John 4:31-34).
- Second, He told them that they would reap what others had sown (John 4:35-38). The woman shared her testimony and planted the seed (John 4:29-30, 39). Jesus watered it and caused the harvest to sprout (John 4:40-42).
- Personal testimony is the best seed we can sow in people's hearts. How powerful is your testimony about what Jesus did in your life?