

UNNECESSARY BARRIERS

John 4 5-9

Introduction:

1. The Characters and Their Context

A) Jesus

- > The trip from Judea to Galilee was a three day trip
- > At noon the road passes a well known well – Jacob’s well
- > Jesus is tired and thirsty (John 4:6)

B) A Samaritan woman

- > Odd, she is coming by herself to the well to draw water at noon
- > On this day she passes a group of men – Jews, on her way to the well
- > Back on the path to the well, she looks ahead and sees a man sitting at the well

2. The Barriers that Could Have Determined the Outcome of this Encounter

A) The Physical Barrier

- > Jesus was tired and on his way to Galilee
- > He had probably been teaching as they traveled and it was time for rest – not redemption

B) The Racial Barrier

- > The Jews despised the Samaritans (John 4:9)

Samaria was formerly the headquarters of the northern kingdom of Israel

The impact of the exile in 722 BC

- > The Samaritans despised the Jews

Seen in their opposition to the exiles who later returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and the city walls (Ezra 4 and Nehemiah 4)

Samaritans were known to refuse hospitality to Jews traveling to the feasts in Jerusalem (Luke 9:51-53)

C) The Gender Barrier

> Jesus was a Jewish man and she was a Samaritan woman

D) The Moral Barrier

> The fact that this woman is coming to the well by herself at noon speaks volumes (John 4:16-18)

3. The Redemptive Purposes that Did Determine the Outcome of this Encounter

A) The Sovereignty of God in Redemption

> He is able to overcome any and all barriers to redeem those whom He has chosen

B) Jesus revealed the impact of His redemptive work

> “Redemptive Norms” or insights into what life will be like in His eternal kingdom are seen in and through His life

> Redemption puts an end to racism and hatred (Galatians 3:26-28)

Redemption doesn't get rid of racial identity, rather it unifies all races “in Christ Jesus” (Revelation 5:8-10)

> Redemption purifies gender relationships

C) The Redemptive Motives that Moved Jesus past the Cultural Barriers

> Jesus loved His Father so much that He willingly submitted to the Father's plan

> Jesus loved the Samaritan woman

Notice how quickly the focus of the discussion changes

Jesus asking this woman to give Him water (John 4:7)

Jesus offering the woman living water to quench her deepest thirst (John 4:10)

* What is the Significance of these motives?

If we are going to follow in the steps of Jesus they must become our motives

To love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength

To love our neighbors so much that we willingly cross significant barriers to meet them at their point of need. (Matthew 25:31-46)