

John 4, Sharing our faith - Part 1: Places

1. Jesus stopped by a well which was a meeting place in that culture. Where are the wells in our society? If we wanted to be in a place where we might meet and talk with people, where would that be?
2. Jesus stopped for a rest and a short while later many in the local village were following him. If Jesus was busier and wanted to stay on schedule then we might never have had this wonderful story of salvation in an unlikely place. How can we stop or slow down so that we have space for conversations about faith, either with people seeking God or with one another?
3. Jews travelled around Samaria because Jews and Samaritans were enemies. How do you think that the disciples reacted when Jesus said they were going through Samaria?
4. As a Jew, Jesus shouldn't have been speaking with a Samaritan. As a Rabbi, he shouldn't have been speaking with a woman. In doing these things Jesus shows us that there is no room for prejudice amongst those who follow him.
 - What do we do when we witness or experience sexism or racism?
 - How can we stand against these things?
5. Do you think it was hard for Jesus to ask someone whose people were enemies of his people for a drink of water? How important was this act of humility in opening up the conversation?
6. Jesus asked for help and engaged in conversation. Historically, churches have arrived with solutions to fix problems and have told people the answers. In a society where the church has much less credibility than it had in the past, is it time to rediscover Jesus' approach?
7. What would it look like if our outreach, individually and as a church became relational and conversational. Instead of trying to fix problems that we perceive are there, to ask for help or to partner with people in the community to be an even greater blessing?
8. The Kingdom of God is growing Luke 13.18-21. If we define the Kingdom of God as anywhere where the rule and reign of God is recognised, how can we be a part of this Kingdom growth? Graeme suggested these areas:
 - a) Will we join Jesus in his work? – How do we discern what Jesus wants us to do?
 - b) Let your light shine before others that they might see your good deeds (Matthew 5) – Can you think of examples of how that way we live could be a witness to others?
 - c) We are Witnesses. A witness simply has to be honest and say what they saw/experienced.
 - d) During the Jewish exile, the Jews wept Ps 137 whilst others, such as Daniel sought change (Jer.29.7). In this society which in some ways seems far from God, how will we react? Will we hide in our churches, hoping people come to us or will we go to the meeting places in society and engage with people?
 - e) Romans 15.13 – How can we let hope overflow to the people around us?