



Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John – Week 9

Preacher – Sandy Mason | Text – John 4:1-30

Summary:

In a move that would have been shocking to the pious Jews of his day, Jesus travels from Judea (in the south) to Galilee (in the north), taking a route **through** Samaria – a place where no self-respecting Jew would go voluntarily. The Samaritans were racially mixed (not “true Jews”), and their religion was the result of lumping together Jewish and pagan practices. During this trip, he takes some time to do another shocking thing – he speaks directly with a Samaritan (who were hated by the Jews, and hated the Jews in turn), who was also a **woman**! The average Jewish rabbi would never have crossed these social and religious boundaries, but Jesus does – setting the stage for an unusual but striking revelation of Jesus as the Savior, the Christ, the promised One.

Discussion:

1. What was the most important take-away for you from this week’s message?
2. Explain your understanding of the cultural and social divides that are made clear in verses 7-9. Consider also that this woman was likely at the well at a time when other women would **not** be there (probably around noon). Why might this be?
Application: Can you think of any similar cultural or social divides in our own day?
How about within the church?
3. Jesus’ response to the woman’s first question (vv. 9-10) seems like a non-sequitur; she wonders why he has violated social protocols, he responds with a much deeper

statement about his own nature and the offer of “living water.” What is he trying to get her to consider through this enigmatic response?

4. See the woman’s reply in vv. 11-12. Does she understand what Jesus is telling her? What does her invocation of the tradition of Jacob’s well tell you about her view of Jesus? Application: Does tradition ever make it hard for you to see Jesus rightly?
5. How would you paraphrase what Jesus says in verses 13-14? Why do you think it’s so hard for the woman to understand what Jesus is really saying (v. 15)?
6. See vv. 16-18. Why does Jesus get so personal, so suddenly? What do you think he is trying to do with this woman?
7. Does the woman respond to Jesus directly (vv. 19-20)? If not, why not? Application: What is your tendency when you are confronted directly on things that aren’t right in your life?
8. What does Jesus reveal about himself in his response to her question about the correct place of worship (vv. 21-26)? How does Jesus change the emphasis of true worship?
9. What does the woman’s testimony about Jesus (v. 29) mean for the scope of his work as “the Christ?” Notice that the people flocking to him are Samaritans, not Jews. Notice also that Jesus’ Jewish disciples see this happening but do not object.
10. How would you ‘title’ this section? In other words, how would you restate the main purpose John had (as the author) in writing this passage?