

# Bill & Kipp's Excellent Bible Adventure

John - Episode 12 - John 4 - *The Samaritan Woman*

## I. Samaritan / Samaria

- A. Look at the stories that Jesus tells of that involve Samaritans in Luke's Gospel - the "Good Samaritan" in Luke 17: 11-19 and the Leper who returns to give thanks in Luke 10: 25-37. How does Jesus portray this "despised enemy" in his stories?
- B. Using your study Bible or a site like Wikipedia, what can you learn about the history of Samaria?
- C. Ancient cultures used the "divide and conquer" philosophy to subdue cultures but taking out part of the population, and replacing with persons from totally different cultures. How have you seen the "divide and conquer" manipulation technique used in your family, workplace, or our own culture? What could you do to counteract that?

## II. Ritually Unclean vs. Relationship with God

- A. Looking through the passage, how many ways did Jesus break ceremonial law? Here is a short list to guide discussion.
  - 1. In Samaria
  - 2. Interacting with a Samaritan
  - 3. Talk to a woman alone
  - 4. Talk to a woman in public
  - 5. Asking for a gift from a Samaritan
  - 6. Drinking from a ritually unclean jug
  - 7. Drinking stagnant, not living (moving) water
  - 8. Buying food from a Samaritan
- B. Using your study Bible or Wikipedia, what would a person have to do if they became ritually unclean to become clean again?
- C. The illustration of Ivory Soap describes who cultural assumptions and judgments can be wrong though widely accepted.
  - 1. What rules does religion sometimes lay out that have nothing to do with true relationship with God?
  - 2. What "false priorities" have you had to grow through to get to a meaningful relationship with God?

### III. Living Water

- A. Living water in John 4 could mean many things to the readers of John's day and to the Samaritan woman - 1) a bubbling spring, 2) magical water that makes you live forever, or 3) spiritual water that nourishes your soul.
  - 1. What "living water" nourishes your soul?
  - 2. What stagnant water pushes to be become a substitute?
  
- B. Jesus engages the Samaritan Woman in this "living water" conversation to move her to a spiritual discussion. What kinds of topics of conversation might you have with people that could lead to a deeper spiritual conversation?