



JESUS, PART 5: JESUS AND OUTCASTS

We all have a natural tendency to surround ourselves with people who like us. Whether we're geeks, jocks, hipsters, Democrats, or Republicans, we surround ourselves with people who are like us. But what is the cost of isolating ourselves from those who are different?

THE BIG IDEA: We like people who like us and who are like us.

Jesus wasn't like that, and he wouldn't like that.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who was your crew growing up? Were you an athlete, in the band, part of the drama club, or some other group? How did being in that group influence how you viewed yourself?
2. Talk about a time when you felt left out. How did you respond?
3. With your Bible or Bible App, [read John 4:3–30](#).

³ Jesus left Judea and returned to Galilee. ⁴ He had to go through Samaria on the way. ⁵ Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. ⁷ Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." ⁸ He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. ⁹ The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?" ¹⁰ Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water." ¹¹ "But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water?" ¹² And besides, do you think you're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?" ¹³ Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. ¹⁴ But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life." ¹⁵ "Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water." ¹⁶ "Go and get your husband," Jesus told her. ¹⁷ "I don't have a husband," the woman replied. Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband—¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!" ¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "you must be a prophet. ²⁰ So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?" ²¹ Jesus replied, "Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. ²³ But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. ²⁴ For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth." ²⁵ The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." ²⁶ Then Jesus told her, "I AM the Messiah!" ²⁷ Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked to find him talking to a woman, but none of them had the nerve to ask, "What do you want with her?" or "Why are you talking to her?" ²⁸ The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?" ³⁰ So the people came streaming from the village to see him.

[John 4:3–30 \(NLT\)](#)

4. During the message, Chris said the way Jesus treated the woman at the well demonstrated how God feels about all people. Is that difficult for you to believe? Why or why not?
5. What are some of the things that inform the boundaries of your table? How do you decide who you surround yourself with?
6. Is there a person or group of people you need to get curious about and begin to ask some questions? If so, what questions would you ask that person or group?
7. Watch the [Moral Circle video \(https://vimeo.com/452197868\)](https://vimeo.com/452197868). What is one thing you can do this week to expand your moral circle to include people who would normally be on the outside? How can this group encourage you and hold you accountable?

MOVING FORWARD

We like people who like us and who are like us. The problem is, Jesus didn't do that, and he wouldn't like that. When you have compassion for those who aren't in your bubble, you learn something about them and yourself. Your view of God gets bigger when you make room at your table.

WEEKLY READING

Spend some time reading and reflecting on the conversations Jesus had with 3 different groups of people: a religious person (John 3), a non-religious person (John 4), and someone caught in the act (John 8). What parts of His conversations are similar? What parts of His conversation did He choose to change it up?