

John 4:1-42

Getting people interested.

1. What kinds of people make you think that they'd never be interested in the Gospel?

Read John 4:1-26

NOTES:

(i) The Jews and the Samaritans hated each other and did not normally visit each other's towns, in fact the Samaritans built their own temple on Mount Gerizim, because they weren't allowed to worship at the Temple in Jerusalem.

(ii) The woman was drawing water during the hottest part of the day, not when the other women drew water: she was a social outcast.

(iii) It was not the done thing for a Jewish man to speak to a strange woman!

2. How does Jesus here challenge us to cross traditional boundaries and comfort zones with the gospel?

3. What can we learn from the way in which Jesus engages in conversation with the woman?

4. Why do you think Jesus uses the phrase "living water" (v10) when he knows that she will not fully understand his meaning?

5. Why, at this particular point in the conversation, do you think Jesus delves into her personal (immoral) life?

6. In what ways do non-Christians indicate that they are spiritually thirsty?

7. How does Jesus deal with the woman's 'red herring' in verses 19-24?

Read John 1:27-42

8. How did the priorities of the disciples, at this point, differ to the priorities of Jesus?

9. In what ways do the woman and other villagers show that they have understood what Jesus was teaching?

Now take some time to pray by name for those known to you who do not yet know Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour.