

**Berean Christian Church
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Bible Study

July 21, 2020

Breaking Down Racial Barriers

John 4:39-43

Galatians 2:12 reads, *“This is what happened: When Peter first came to Antioch, he ate and associated with the non-Jewish people. But when some Jewish men came from James, Peter separated himself from the non-Jews. He stopped eating with them, because he was afraid of the Jews who believe that all non-Jewish people must be circumcised.”* (ERV) This verse records an offensive act that was committed by a Jerusalem church leader towards a group of Gentile Christians. A major issue facing America in the 21st Century is racism. Individuals who are racists believe that they are superior to others based on the color of their skin. This lesson is designed to examine Jesus’ encounter with a woman at a well to point out tips for breaking down racial barriers.

Breakdown of John Chapter 4

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|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. The _____ by Jesus | Verses 1-3 |
| 2. The _____ from Jesus | Verses 4-42 |
| 3. The _____ with Jesus | Verses 43-54 |

1. Your _____ can help you to break down racial barriers.
Verse 4
“He had to go through Samaria on the way.” (NLT)
“And he must needs go through Samaria.” (KJV)
2. Your _____ can help you to break down racial barriers.
Verses 7-9
“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?” (NLT)

(Over)

3. Your _____ can help you to break down racial barriers.

Verses 10-15

“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.” (NLT)

4. Your _____ can help you to break down racial barriers.

Verses 25-30

“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.” (NLT)

5. Your _____ can help you to break down racial barriers.

Verses 39-42

“Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, “He told me everything I ever did!” 40) When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days, 41) long enough for many more to hear his message and believe. 42) Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know that he is indeed the Savior of the world.” (NLT)

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