

Message Notes
EMBRACING THE STRANGER
Part 3: Strangers by Culture
John 4:3-30
October 7/8, 2017
Pastor Mark Riggins

*I am **the way**, the truth, and the life.* – John 14:6

The Jesus way + the Jesus truth = the Jesus life.

1. As Christians, we do more harm when we do the right thing the wrong way.

Are we making a point or making a difference?

*Now He had to go **through** Samaria.* – John 4:4

2. Embracing Jesus means walking near people who think differently than me.

“You don’t catch sin from sinners. In an attempt to protect our families and stay pure, we Christians often build walls. We don’t let our kids around those kinds of kids and we don’t interact with those kinds of people. We ARE those kinds of people! It’s God’s grace that rescues us. We don’t build walls. We open doors.” – Matt Chandler

*Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as He was from the journey, **sat down** by the well. It was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to Him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can You ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)* – John 4:6-9

3. Embracing Jesus means sitting with people who think differently than me.

God uses people outside of “God’s people.”

Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and Who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water.” “Sir,” the woman said, “You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can You get this living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?” – John 4:10-12

4. Embracing Jesus means talking with people who think differently than me.

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” – John 4:13-14

The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.” – John 4:15

Just then His disciples returned and were surprised to find Him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?” – John 4:27

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

– Luke 15:1-2

5. Christians are sinners who have been rescued by a Savior who loves all sinners.

When it comes to sinners, there is no “they” only “us.”

Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” So when the Samaritans came to Him, they urged Him to stay with them, and He stayed two days. And because of His words many more became believers. – John 4:39-41

Closing questions:

- What opinions, views, or lifestyles bother me the most?
- Am I avoiding anyone because of the way they think/live?

Discussion Questions
EMBRACING THE STRANGER
Part 3: Strangers by Culture
John 4:3-30
October 7/8, 2017
Pastor Mark Riggins

1. What stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. Mark talked about "the way of Jesus" being an important part of John 14:6. As you think back on the story of Jesus' conversation with the woman at the well (and other interactions of Jesus with non-religious people), how would you describe Jesus' way of relating to people?
3. What are some ways that we as Christians can do the right thing in the wrong way?
4. When the disciples saw Jesus talking with the woman at the well, they were surprised. Why do you think they were surprised and maybe put off?
5. What behaviors, opinions, or lifestyles tend to bother you most?
6. Who are the people others may be surprised to see you sitting down with for a conversation?
7. Why do you think Jesus was so consistently comfortable sitting with people in society who were "on the fringe?"
8. How can this group pray for you on this topic or in general this week?