



TRINITY

SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS for September 17, 2023

Series: Refresh: Sharing Christ in Everyday Conversations

Sermon Title: “WWJG - ?”

Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Bryan Eckelmann

Theme/concept

“Jesus *had* to go through Samaria...” God creates divine appointments, when I am given the opportunity to talk with someone about what is truly most important. But I am good at missing them. I need to become more attentive to the moments I don’t always see – people with whom we’d never think to have spiritual discussions. But what if we were attentive? So, stay open to what God might do. We challenge each person to notice, to invite, to prepare for, and to experience “spiritual conversations” – discussions about faith and the deeper parts of our lives.

Icebreaker (for groups)

Tell about a time when you were “passing through” an area, but you would have preferred to take a different route.

Reflections on the Sermon

Which points from the sermon resonated with you?

Primary Text: John 4: 1-5

¹ The Pharisees heard that Jesus was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John,

² although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. ³ When the Lord learned of this, he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

⁴ Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

Reviewing the Scripture

1. What rumor was going around in verse 1? What people were circulating it?
2. According to verse 2, how was the rumor incorrect? How was it correct?
See John 3:30.
3. In verse 3, how did Jesus react to the rumor? Why do you think he reacted this way?
Where did he intend to go?
4. What can we learn from these verses about the nature of rumors?
5. What area did Jesus need to pass through on his way to Galilee? When you “pass through” a town how much time do you plan to spend there? How would you react to a delay?

Going Deeper

1. “Jesus had to go through Samaria.” This phrase can have multiple meanings. List as many as you can. Which do you think is the most likely reason that he *had* to go through Samaria?
2. Most Jewish travelers would have chosen to travel along the east side of the Jordan River in order to avoid going through Samaria. The road through Samaria, however, was the most direct route from Jerusalem to Galilee. Why do you think Jesus chose to pass through Samaria?
3. Why do you think John added the geographical and historical information in verse 5?
4. List everyday situations in your life which could be opportunities to initiate a spiritual conversation. If you are in a small group, share your answers.

5. What people in your life tend to go unnoticed? How can you correct this?

Closing Prayer

Lord, we thank you for placing divine opportunities in our lives to tell people about you. Please raise our awareness and openness to these opportunities and give us your words to engage people and to build relationships. Please open our eyes to the overlooked people in our lives and show us how to acknowledge and encourage them. Thank you for coming to earth to show us how to live.

In Your name,

Amen