





## THE CONTEXT

The Pharisees were talking about how Jesus was winning and baptizing more disciples than John... So when Jesus heard what was being said, he left Judea and returned to Galilee, which took him through Samaria.

VERSES 1-4

"It was time for the Festival, and Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, where people can see your miracles! Show yourself to the world! You can't become famous if you hide like this!" JOHN 7:2-4 (NLT)

#### THE GOD OF OUR AGE IS FAME AND CELEBRITY – even in the church.

#### THAT'S *not* JESUS!

- → He avoided attention
- He hung out with the wrong crowd
- He said hard things to would-be followers
- He insulted religious kingpins
- → He championed unpopular causes
- → He lost followers.
- He got himself crucified

But he changed the world!





Samaritan—you're asking me for a drink?" Jews won't even use the same cups and bowls that Samaritans use.

VERSE 9



## HOSTILITY BETWEEN JEW & SAMARITAN

The Northern tribes exiled to Assyria began to intermarry; so did the remnant remaining in Israel.

They tarnished their racial purity as God's chosen people in the eyes of the Southern tribes.

## HOSTILITY BETWEEN JEW & SAMARITAN

The Southern tribes contemptuously rejected the Northern tribes' offer to help rebuild the temple.

The Northern tribes built an alternative temple on Mt. Gerizim.



Jews wouldn't associate with Samaritans.

Jewish men wouldn't publicly associate with woman.

Jews wouldn't associate with women of questionable morals.

## BREAKING BARRIERS

Jesus, whom John presents as God in the flesh, is breaking through all barriers—racial, religious, social, gender, moral—to redeem a lost soul.

### SALVATION IS NOT EXCLUSIVE —it is universal.

#### ASSIGNMENT

Express tangible love to unlikely, unsuspecting people

#### Love the unlikely —it's the way of the Master!

#### PLATE #3

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Believe me, dear woman, the time is oming when it won't matter where you worship God. In fact, that time is now rue worshipers worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."

VERSES 21-24

## THE CORE PROBLEM

The Samaritan woman was looking for a god made to her specifications.

#### We "samaritanize"

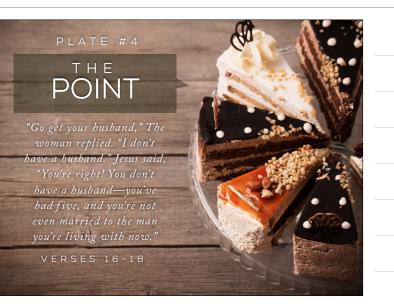
worship when we make worship more about what we like than about what God likes. "As Americans return to church, they have developed a pick and choose Christianity in which individuals take what they want and pass over what does not fit their spiritual goals."

NEWSWEEK

WORSHIP GOD HIS WAY-YOU WILL GET WHAT YOU REALLY WANT-LIVING WATER. IT'S THE WAY OF THE MASTER!

> ASSIGNMENT Evaluate your expectations of worship.

If you have made worship about what you prefer, a little repentance is in order.



ANY ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS DOESN'T SIMPLY WARM OUR HEART TO UNIVERSALITY OF GOD'S LOVE OR INFORM OUR THEOLOGY...

> it touches our heart's true condition!

If you are looking to a <u>thing</u> or <u>person</u> to fulfill you, you are putting an expectation on something or someone they can't meet.

Your life will end up as one long, futile attempt to find completion.

ONLY GOD CAN COMPLETE YOU.

"Our hearts are restless till they find rest in thee." AUGUSTINE



