



QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH JESUS #2 - John 4:1-42

1. Share a story of unexpected encounters you may have had with strangers that led to a discussion about Jesus. (It might have been at work, on a plane or train ride, in a bar - wherever!) OR...
2. Jews and Samaritans had a history of mutual loathing that dated back almost 500 years from the time of Jesus. What groups of people do fourth, fifth and sixth generation Australians tend to regard with something like the same disdain? How is this rationalised?
3. **Who are the characters?** What is surprising or significant to you about the manner in which Jesus begins this conversation?
4. Let's consider how Jesus short-circuited this mutual loathing society. Map the conversation points - the topics and the responses, then discuss the effect of Jesus' words on the woman right to the climactic revelation of who he is.
5. **What does Jesus claim?**
6. Here is a woman who has had five husbands and now just living with a man. Why doesn't Jesus censure her for her behaviour? What does he actually do? OR...
7. Note that Samaritans too wanted the Messiah to come - explain why Jesus is comfortable declaring himself the Messiah to this woman yet chooses not to do so with Jews.
8. Jesus speaks of God looking for people who will worship him in spirit and in truth. What do you think he means by that? See if you can relate your answer to what Jesus taught about the Spirit in his conversation with Nicodemus.
9. **What does it mean for us today?** Consider groups most likely in our context to be responsive to the Gospel. Where are our most promising mission fields and how might we mobilise as a church to ensure there is mission patterned after Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman?