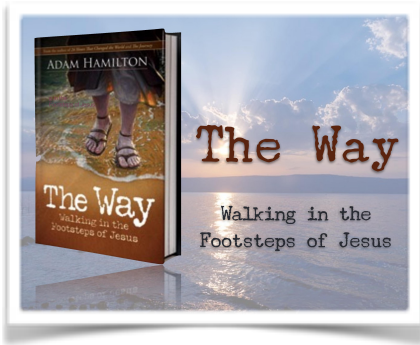


April 3, 2016 **Chapter 5**

Sinners, Outcasts, and the Poor
Samaria



Goals

- Come to a deeper understanding of Jesus' ministry with the least, the last, the lost.
- Recognize the prejudices that made people outcasts in the first century and identify some prejudices that make people outcasts today.
- Identify ways in which Jesus ministered to and with outcasts and his reasons for doing so.
- Become aware of your own tendencies to label certain groups as outcasts and the reasons for such labeling.
- Begin to overcome prejudices against those who are different in various ways.
- Recognize ways in which you may have passed on your prejudices to your children and to others.

Biblical Foundation (*John 4:3-10*)

[Jesus] left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

Conversation Questions

- Where was the man possessed of demons living? How had the townspeople treated him? Why?
- The first thing Jesus said to the man was, "What is your name?" Why do you think Jesus began the conversation in this way? What was the man's response?
- When Jesus cast the demons into the swine and the swine ran into the Sea of Galilee, how did the townspeople respond? Why? Have you ever responded that way to God?
- At Jesus' urging, the man who had been freed of demons became the first missionary to the Gentiles. What can we learn from this episode?
- What were your impressions of the Samaritan priest in the video? Based on the interview, describe some aspects of Samaritan life today.
- Who are undesirables in our day and age? Who are undesirables in terms of politics? In terms of socio-economic status? In terms of religion and faith? In terms of customs and culture? In terms of actions and activities? In terms of lifestyle choices?
- Where do we get the idea that these people are undesirable?
- Are there groups that we legitimately should avoid?

PALESTINE AT THE TIME OF JESUS

Chapter 5

