

## Sermon Suggestion 1 - Crossing Cultures

**Main Idea:** To cross cultures among refugees connects with the heart.

*Begin with an example of the need to overcome cross-cultural conflict and to increase understanding between cultures.*

The need to interact across cultures was also true for Jesus:

Jerusalem to Galilee journey passes through Samaria. = conflict zone, unaccepted groups; Jew vs. Samaritan (v.9); Did not have to pass through Samaria (v.4). Normally Jews avoided the region. God wanted him to cross these borders; Sermon looks at 3 aspects to consider as we love the stranger and cross cultures.

- 1) Meet on a human Level (v.7-14) - Jesus understood needs of life. Approaches as fellow human; real and honest. Give other scripture examples of Jesus meeting a human need. *Tell a story to illustrate a common need that was met and how this was important.*
- 2) Meet on a moral Level (v. 15-18) - addresses personal and relevant needs; issues that affect how we live and relate; deeper needs that cause pain and are difficult to overcome; touches sins and need for forgiveness, reconciliation and healing; required to go to this personal level in order to see God's connection to us. *Give example of what happened when someone understands and connects personally to an issue;* When we connect personally, we find a way to connect with heart.
- 3) Spiritual Level (v.19-26) - Jesus connects to her important issues, but it is too personal and difficult. She changes subject: 'you are a prophet' (v.19). Jesus meets her on a spiritual level-aware of spiritual needs and the whole person-created by God with longings. The passage has whole picture in mind of the issues in woman's life. Mirrors refugees: How do parts fit together? How to make sense of transnational lives and issues? What is relation between the well, her sins and spiritual worship. This is dilemma of disjointed life-can't face true needs. How? The problem and solution are in the text -wrapped up in knowing Messiah. Jesus' point of v.26: 'I am he'.
- 4) Knowing the saviour is key to connect the parts of story together (see v.10). Crossing cultures is all about connecting with the heart, and this is what Jesus the Messiah has done for us. Crossing cultures begins with connecting to the heart. - when we are human, real and genuine, personal and relevant, restored to God

*Conclude by describing in your own words what happened in v.28-30. The woman went into the village to tell about what just happened. Basically, she said, 'come meet the man who knows all about me!'*

*Paul Sydnor lives in Lille, France and serves in IAFR as the European Regional Director.  
Contact Paul@iafr.org*