

Forward Day by Day

Saturday, March 10, 2001 — Ember Day



*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.)*

— JOHN 4:9

If you’ve ever been anywhere in leg irons, belly chain, and handcuffs, you’ll know. If you were black in the days of “whites only” signs or a minority victim of those same unwritten signs today, you’ll know, or if you had to wear hand-me-downs to school, while everyone else wore Nikes, you’ll know. If you were ever the only one in a long checkout line who had to pay for your food with food stamps, you’ll know. If you’ve ever felt uncomfortable around someone else because you were different—and usually, that manifests itself as a feeling of less than—you’ll know.

The story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman ends with Jesus talking about living waters and that’s usually the focus or the moral of the story.

What about the social implication? How many barriers—concrete, steel, mental, emotional—do we erect every day? How many encounters—miraculous, monumental, life-changing—do we miss because of our barriers? How often do we miss out on giving and/or receiving the water of life?

Today, why don’t you reenact the Gospel and give someone you wouldn’t ordinarily associate with a drink? The story continues, you know.