

John 4:1-30 Love Can Break Through Walls
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One of the goals of In-reach is bring the Christian community together. Over time, walls have been established to separate and divide people; even in the church. In fact, Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "11:00 a.m. is the most segregated hour in America."

While we have learned how to worship together, we have not learned how to work together. We're not talking together and spending enough time together to understand that Jesus Christ is real.

Walls among Christians are anti-Christ. Injustice, prejudice, misunderstanding, misrepresentation, segregation, racism, hate and other ills have conveniently become walls of separation rather than bridges that bring people together on one accord. If we don't attempt to break down the walls, they will forever be barriers to what Jesus wants the church to be.

Act 2:1 says the disciples were together in one place and they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in different tongues. People were from different countries and cultures, continents, ethnicities, experiences, and circumstances gathered together, yet, they were able to hear the disciples in their own language. Walls came down that day and it was for God's glory by the power of the Holy Spirit. It can happen again.

If Jesus loves us and if we love Jesus, then there should be no walls that cannot be broken through. When the love of Jesus is displayed by his people, walls can come down. The love that Jesus displayed can break through barriers that others have erected against the church.

When we love rather than hate, walls come down. When we show we care rather than not being concerned, walls come down. When we love and not judge, walls come down. When we embrace instead of pushing people away, walls come down. When we care rather than act like we're unconcerned, walls come down. Therefore, if we want to see lost people saved, we must break through some walls with the love of Jesus Christ.

The text:

1. Ethnic Walls - You were either a Jew or a Gentile and there was no getting around it. The Samaritans were considered as the less-than of society. Therefore, the woman at the well in Samaria was surprised when Jesus asks her for a drink of water.
2. Gender Walls - The text was written during a time that favored men fully. During this time, Jesus should not have ever engaged a women in public. It would

have been an affront against the culture if he talked to her in public. When the disciples saw Jesus talking to the woman at the well, they marveled at his actions.

3. Religious and Theological Walls - Since the Jews would not allow the Samaritans to worship in Jerusalem, they moved down the street and built their own place of worship. This is no different from the church today. When people are dissatisfied with the way things are going in one church, they either find a new church or create a church of their own.
4. Experience Wall - Jesus was tempted to sin, but did not yield to it. The woman at the well could not pass that test because she had a documented checkered past. The woman at the well was approached by Jesus despite her ethnicity and checkered past. Jesus spoke truth to her and offered her living water. Immediately the woman said, give me some of this water. The biggest and thickest walls that have ever been erected can be brought down by the love of Jesus. Nothing can keep the love of Jesus from you, no matter what you have been through or who you are. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ...yet in all these things, we are more than conquerors...nothing can separate us from the love of God through Christ Jesus.
 - a. Love can break through walls when you go beyond what is expected. Jesus goes out of his way to break through His personal walls and the Samaritan woman. Jesus had a method and a purpose for going through Samaria even though going through Samaria would extend the time for Him to get to Jerusalem.

What would happen if we go beyond what is expected? There are a variety of ways that we can go beyond what is expected if we are willing to do it. God will put opportunities in our path that will cause people to flip out when we go beyond what is expected.

- b. Going beyond what is expected is a game changer and a door opener. It creates an open door to walk through.
- c. Love can break through walls when you look beyond people's past and hold them in their highest possibility.

Jesus looked beyond the past of the woman because he knew that she could be saved. Jesus can save in spite of our past. Love can break through walls when you have a story to tell. The most powerful stories are from people who have a past; they can tell their story because of their history. And without a history you can't have a real story.