



Grain

“Now he had to go through Samaria.” John 4:4

Field

7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." 8 (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) 9 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.) 10 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." 11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" 13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." John 4:7-14

Thoughts

“Why did you come to India?” A seemingly practical but actually intriguing question from the movie, *A Passage to India* based on E. M. Forster’s novel. The drama takes place in the 1920’s before India’s liberation from England. The tension between British rule and a burgeoning independence movement as well as disagreements over racial equality are present throughout the film. At one point, a Hindu priest who befriended some of the westerners asked an English character, “Why did you come to India?” The Englishman gave a practical answer. However, you soon catch on that the question went deeper. Whom was he there to meet beyond what he could have planned for himself?

Why did Jesus go to Samaria? Did “he have to go through Samaria” to reach his destination? The historian, Josephus, claimed that the route Jesus chose was common for Galileans to use. However, Pharisees would usually opt for a longer route because of unrest between the two cultures and religions. And yet Jesus “had to go through Samaria.” The journey was about encounters, more specifically, one with a Samaritan woman. Reading the rest of the story beyond the verses above, we get a sense of how the woman had been missing loyal relationships in her life. Jesus offered her acknowledgement and God’s love that traversed her invisibility and the bitterness that lingered between two cultures.

Why did you come to _____? You can fill in the blank. We all have practical answers to the question. But what if in response we reflect on people who have appeared in our lives and helped us to transcend barriers or envision in new ways? Posing the question is then more like a spiritual exercise and may lead us to being in wonder of what is next. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy Crane