

1. Looking for receptive hearers in unexpected places

- a) John 4:3-8, 34-35 What difference do you see between the attitude of Jesus and the attitude of His disciples on the outskirts of Sychar?
- b) How did the interaction of Jesus with the woman of Samaria at Jacob's well impact the people of Sychar? John 4:28-30, 39-42
- c) How did the inhabitants of the city of Samaria respond when the deacon Philip shared with them the truth about Jesus? Acts 8:3-8
- d) What region would be considered "Samaria" in our day? Why must we always remember to look for receptive hearers in Samaria? Acts 1:8.
- e) Give an example from the ministry of Jesus where a receptive hearer was found in an unexpected place.
- f) Share a time when you found a receptive hearer in an unexpected place.
- g) How can we learn to see others with the eyes of Jesus?

2. Getting past local prejudices

- a) Matthew 15:21-28 What are your thoughts about this interaction between Jesus and a Canaanite woman from the region of Tyre and Sidon?
- b) Does this Canaanite woman change the attitude of Jesus or is something else going on here?

- c) What local prejudices are evident in the response of some of those who were present when a woman anointed the head of Jesus? Mark 14:3-9
- d) What local prejudices might hinder you from reaching people with the love of Jesus?

3. Presenting the truth in love

- a) Ephesians 4:1-3 (see also v.15). Why is it so important to speak the truth in love?
- b) Is speaking the truth in love a skill or a gift?
- c) What are some negatives consequences when we present the truth without love?
- d) How did the apostle Paul describe the believers in Thessalonica? 2 Thessalonians 1:3
- e) Ephesians 4:31-32 How does the counsel of the apostle Paul to Christians in Ephesus relate to speaking the truth in love?
- f) How does the admonition of Peter relate to the need to speak the truth in love? 1 Peter 3:15
- g) What example comes to your mind from the ministry of Jesus where He spoke the truth in love?
- h) Think of a time when someone shared the truth with you in love. How did that interaction impact you?

