

THE "REAL" JESUS

John 4:1-9

Introduction: Women put on make up, get their hair done, wear nice clothes when they are going out or expecting company. Men sometimes speak in a style that they don't use when at home in old jeans and a sweat shirt, when they are at work or have company come over. All of us put on "airs" to keep people from seeing, hearing, knowing the "real" us. From things we see and hear from some sources it seems they seem to have a different concept of Jesus than what the average Christian does. So, did Jesus try to hide the "real" Jesus from the public or was He the same all the time? What was Jesus "really" like? The *Text* about the Samaritan woman at the well reveals the "real" Jesus.

I. JESUS WAS JUST AS "HUMAN" AS ANYBODY ELSE

1. Jesus and His disciples had been walking all day in the hot sun.
2. Jesus was hot, tired, thirsty and hungry.
3. Jesus felt no differently than did His disciples or if it had been us there with them.

II. JESUS TALKED WITH EVERYBODY/ANYBODY

1. Most Jewish men would have ignored this woman and perhaps told her to leave or left himself.
 - This was a WOMAN, men didn't talk to women publicly.
 - This was a SAMARITAN WOMAN, and this was a double "no-no." Jews didn't have any dealings with Samaritans, especially a Samaritan woman.
 - The woman should have left upon seeing the Jewish man at the well and especially not talked with him, but she stayed.
2. Jesus, as usual, started the conversation which again was "against the rules."
 - It was natural for Jesus to talk to just anybody.
 - Jesus always talked with anybody as a friend, not like He was a "somebody."
 - Jesus was kind, seemed to understand right away why she was there at that time of day and didn't say any unkind or judgmental word to her.

III. JESUS BROKE DOWN SOME BARRIERS

1. For centuries the Jews and Samaritans had no friendly contact between themselves.
 - Israel had been taken off into captivity centuries before by Assyria.
 - Assyria replaced the land with captives from other nations.
 - A few Israelites had been left by Assyria and they intermarried with those brought in from other nations by Assyria.
 - They intermarried and incorporated idol worship of the incoming nations with their worship of God.
 - Samaria had their own place of worship, their own sacred places and didn't go to the Jewish places or accept them.

- Samaritan and Jews hated each other.
 - No Jewish rabbi was allowed to speak to any woman in public, even of his own family.
 - It is said that many of the Pharisees who were strict law keepers and enforcers would close their eyes when approaching a woman to keep from seeing her and therefore run\ into things, thus causing bruises, etc..
 - No decent Jewish man would dare talk to a woman, especially a Samaritan Woman, and very especially if that woman had a bad reputation, which this one did.
2. Yet, Jesus paid no attention to the traditions and laws of either the Jews or Samaritans. Jesus simply spoke to this Samaritan Woman in public, who had a bad reputation.
 3. Jesus loved people, all kinds of people, He never met a stranger and He would/could/did talk to everyone He met.

CONCLUSION:

1. So what was/is the "real" Jesus like?
2. Jesus, the "Holiest of Men," Son of God, got tired, weary, hungry and thirsty, just like anybody else.
3. Jesus broke down barriers and customs between nations and races to just talk to people.
4. So, here is God so loving the world, not in theory, but in action.
5. Here is God, through Jesus, showing that He cares for everybody, no matter what race, social position, past sins, a him or a her.
6. Not only did Jesus talk with this Samaritan Woman with a bad reputation, but He brought her into the Family of God.
7. So, what does this tell you about the "real" Jesus?
 - He knows how life is.
 - He loves us just like we are.
 - He doesn't pay any attention to man made barriers between people.
 - He will accept anyone into His Family who will accept Him.
8. Have you had your experience with Jesus? He's waiting for you. If you have, then go find somebody and bring them to Him, like the Samaritan woman did.