



20/20 Embracing a New Vision on Race

John 4:1-4 (NIV)

Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John—² although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples.³ So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

⁴ Now he had to go through Samaria.

1. A person of vision is willing to go there!

John 4:5-8 (NIV)

So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

2. A person of vision starts with what we share in common!

Humanity's common ground:

- ◇ We are equal in SIN. (Romans 3:23)
- ◇ We are equal in SALVATION. (Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 3:27-29)
- ◇ We are equal in WORTH. (Genesis 1:27; I Corinthians 6:20)

John 4:9 (NIV)

The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

3. A person of vision is never blind to prejudice and injustice!

John 4:10-16 (NIV)

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?" ¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." ¹⁶ He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

4. A person of vision sees racism as a sin problem and not a skin problem!

- Any push for change that isn't rooted in the Gospel will ultimately fall short.

Ezekiel 36:26 (NIV)

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.