



**I (heart) LKN**

**God loves the poor: What about Samaria?**

**Acts 1:8; John 4:4**

**Guest Preacher: Rev. Rufus Smith**

**Leader Pastor, City of Refuge EPC Church, Houston, Texas**

Jesus came to restore his entire house: the entire house of Israel. The Samaritans were part of the Jewish family and Jesus aimed to restore them as well.

Yet the Samaritans were not appreciated by other Jews. In fact, many Jews in their travels to Jerusalem, to worship, would walk another day to go around Samaria.

Yet Jesus had a deep, deep love for Samaria. Read these stories that Scripture gives us about Samaria:

**Luke 10:25-37**

**Luke 17:11-19**

**Acts 8:4-25**

Thank God that Jesus the Jew made an issue out of the Samaria! As you can see, Jesus has a deep heart for those in Samaria.

**Read John 4:1-42**

Pastor Rufus made 4 points this morning:

- 1) There is no impact without contact: John 4:7
- 2) There is no information without conversation: John 4:9-10
- 3) There is no deep relationship without loving confrontation: John 4:16
- 4) There is no salvation without incarnation: John 4:40

**Which of these points spoke the most to you this morning and why?**

Pastor Rufus this morning talked about the woman's response: "Come see a man that told me everything that I ever did and he still loved me!"

**This statement should first be seen personally:**

**What does it mean to you to know that Jesus knows everything that you have ever done yet he still loves you?**

**If your group has been together for a while and you are comfortable sharing, what are some of the things that Jesus knows about you that you are grateful he has loved you for anyway? Remember, if Jesus loves you regardless of this, your group has no other choice than to love you as well as you share it.**

**But this statement should also be seen as a call to those of us who call Jesus Lord:**

**Who are people that are hard for you to love because you know what they did?**

**How does knowing that Jesus has loved you enable you to love this person?**

**Who are the people that are hardest for you to impact because you are afraid to make contact?**

**Who are the people that God is using you to impact because you have made contact?**

**Who are the people that are hard to gain information because you do not want to have conversation?**

**What is the information you have with the people you are having conversation?**

**Who are the people that you need to have confrontation with in order to have relationship with?**

**Who are people that you have had loving confrontation with and therefore have wonderful relationship with?**

To close, look through, as a group, the opportunities we gave this morning for you to reach out to Samaria. You don't have to look far. You don't even have to be a part of these. But, we, like the disciples have been called to love Samaria-to go to Samaria.

**This week, memorize Acts 1:8. The best way to do this is to write it over and over. Next time your group gathers, be ready to quote it and tell what it has meant to you in meaning this week.**