

March 12 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

<sup>3</sup> . . . he left Judea and started back to Galilee. <sup>4</sup>But he had to go through Samaria. . .  
<sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him: “How is it you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)

### Jesus’s Divine GPS

#### [John 4: 1-15](#)

Have you ever Googled your destination for a trip and found more than one way? Google Maps might show the shortest time and an alternate route that seems shorter. In West Virginia, we have lots of “as the crow flies” routes that might look preferable on the map but the curves of the 2-lane roads may not show the complete picture.

When traveling throughout the region, Jesus and the disciples relied on custom and knowledge and Jesus’s divine GPS.

The cultural history and norms of the day often ruled decision making -- even when selecting travel routes. The northern tribes of Israel including Manasseh and Ephraim settled in the area known as Samaria (now known as Palestine). They intermarried with the Israelites in the region and became despised by the Jews.

While going *that way* was the shortest route between Judea and Galilee, it was not on the typical GPS route for Jews since going through hostile territory was not the first choice.

In fact, it was common to go many miles out of their way to avoid traveling through that hated land.

John 4:4 says that Jesus *had to go* through Samaria. Wesley’s study Bible commentary suggests that “had to go” meant there was **divine purpose** in that trip since other routes were available.

Jesus’s encounter with the woman at the well became a hallmark of his ministry. He sought out and changed the lives of sinners. Sinners like me.

Jesus came to the well for me, not the water.

*Prayer: Loving God: Thank you for sending Jesus through hostile lands where he saved sinners like me. Help us choose to follow Jesus on the roads that will take to places that need to hear about your love and grace. In Jesus name, Amen.*

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