







Go Through? Go Around?

Since Jesus chose not to detour around Samaria, he walked into a "divine appointment."

John 4:3-4 & 9, NIV
So [Jesus] left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. Now he had to go through Samaria...Jews do not associate with Samaritans.

Don't Detour Around Lost People!

- Join Jesus in "seeking" the lost. (Luke 19:10)
- We "have to" live missionally. God wants to send us on divine appointments!

Christ's Divine Appointment

Though tired, Jesus took the initiative to reach out and connect with a lost person.

John 4:5-8, NIV
So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar...Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

Reaching Out Like Jesus

- In light of the eternal stakes, tiredness (and other factors) cannot become an excuse to stay disconnected or quiet.
- Use your greatest asset: your humanity...your own neediness!

Winsome Jesus!

He surprised the woman by accepting her as a person of value—and by building a bridge of trust.

John 4:6-7 & 9, NIV
 ...Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"...The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?"

Be Winsome!

- Love people—especially those that others ignore or dislike!
- Assume mistrust! The first step is usually building a bridge of trust!

The End of The Story

When the disciples arrive with lunch, they learn that Jesus has already eaten!

John 4:27 & 31-34, NIV

Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman...his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?" "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."

Filet Mignon For The Soul!

Reaching out is more deeply satisfying than the finest of foods!

Eternally full-filled souls are better than temporarily full-filled stomachs!

Doing Field Work

Outreach is working for the ultimate harvest!

John 4:35-36, NLT

The fields are already ripe for harvest. The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life.

Field Work Involves Team Work!

God is watching every contribution to the crop,
and will reward each of his workers accordingly.

John 4:37 & 38, NLT (see also 1 Corinthians 3:5-8)

You know the saying, "One plants and another harvests." And it's true. ...What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike!

Field Work Involves Team Work!

God is already at work (and using more than you!)
to reach the lost people in your life!

John 4:38, NLT

I sent you to harvest where you didn't plant; others had already done the hard work, and now you will get to gather the harvest.

*Sometimes you reap what others have sown!
Sometimes you sow what others will reap!*

Getting The Lost In Your Vision

You can't SEIZE outreach opportunities
unless you SEE them!

I tell you, open your eyes and look at the harvest.
John 4:35, NIV

*What is the most EYE-OPENING thing
you can do in order to see outreach opportunities?*

PRAYER is EYE-OPENING!

When you customize your conversation with God about lost people...

- you see the needs, fears and pains of lost people around you!
- you see "divine appointments"—where and how God is already at work!
