



**SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Friday, September 30, 2022**

**Scripture: John 4:1-10**

**TITLE: Jesus Breaks Tradition**

Traditions and customs are wonderful. What traditions do you have in your life or family? Our family has some that are very unique. For example, we eat oysters and eggs for Christmas brunch. Why? I've yet to find a better answer than, "We just do. It's tradition."

But traditions and customs can also be burdensome and unnecessary. A great example is found in John chapter four. Jesus leaves Judea to let John continue his ministry and is heading for Galilee. He and His disciples pass through Samaria and stop for a rest. And it's at Jacob's well He does the unthinkable. What does Jesus do? Let's pick up the story in John 4:6-10,

Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

According to Judaism, you have to avoid unclean things. Samaritans were unclean. They were a kind of half-breeds of Jews and Gentiles. Though fully God, Jesus is fully human and needs rest. So it's about noon, and Jesus stops for a water break while the disciples go into town to get some food.

A Samaritan woman comes out at one of the hottest points of the day. Often the women would venture to the wells in the morning and in the evening in groups. But she is coming at noon alone. Why? She had a back story that was scandalous. She would suffer the heat without suffering the ridicule.

Jesus does the unthinkable. He breaks the custom of avoiding Samaritans – the unclean ones. He breaks the custom of not talking to women. In this culture, men didn't talk to women in public – even husbands did not talk to their wives.

He is even willing to use her own utensil for drawing water. Jesus would touch the leper, and they would be clean. Jesus came to heal not just the body but the soul. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. He doesn't care about unnecessary customs or traditions or human limitations.

She is shocked by His behavior and now His offer. Jesus says, "If you knew who you were talking to, you'd not worry about that well water. You'd ask me for the thing your soul longs for most: peace with God."

Jesus was willing to break the manmade customs and traditions that were unnecessary and burdensome.

So here's my challenge for you today: break the unnecessary customs that prevent you from loving people well. Break the unnecessary traditions that prevent you from reaching the lost. We avoid people in certain places or from certain backgrounds. We do this because we don't like them or because we're afraid of what people will think.

But Jesus came to seek – that means to go to and pursue the lost no matter the cost. We should do the same.

When we do this, we will win the day.