

Now [Jesus] had to go through Samaria.

—John 4:4



Back in the time of Jesus' teaching ministry, it was culturally unacceptable for a Jew to enter a Samaritan town. Most Jewish people would walk an extra 26 miles around Samaria than set foot in that region. The discrimination and racist treatment of Samaritans at the time is further emphasized in Jesus' parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37).

So the intentional action of Jesus to cross through the "enemy territory" of the Samaritans rather than taking the accepted path was significant. When he crossed that border, Jesus was clearly on a mission of breaking down boundaries.

The story in John 4 goes on to show that Jesus crossed other forbidden social and cultural boundaries by talking with an adulterous woman at the well. Jesus chose her to be one of the first evangelists, as we see in John 4:39: "Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony."

Jesus chose diversity not only for his Jewish disciples but as the best means of changing the world with ALL nations in mind. For building diverse churches today, we should not mind crossing ethnic and cultural boundaries, because our Lord and Master Jesus did it first. Let's follow the Master's lead.

*"This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are
heirs together with Israel, **members together of one body**,
and **sharers together** in the promise in Christ Jesus."*

—Ephesians 3:6

DIVERSITY IN THE CRCNA

The CRC's Diversity ministry was established to affirm and support CRC congregations as they work toward becoming more inclusive environments, welcoming the calling and use of gifts in people of various ethnicities. Like Jesus, we want to break down the unseen boundaries of our time and bring his good news to all.

We identify, affirm, and support church leaders and emerging leaders in their callings and giftedness while recognizing gender and ethnic challenges in Christian leadership. We welcome and support gatherings for building relationships, vibrant worship, and celebration.



We are blessed by three kinds of financial support: CRC ministry shares, designated church offerings, and individual donations from generous people like you. Please give as God leads.



Please support the diversity work in the CRCNA today!
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