

Assignment 6.4

Arthur Hay

Jesus and the woman at the well

Jesus was going to the lowest of the low to find someone to preach the Gospel, as in many circumstances God looks for the humble. Firstly, the Samaritans were despised by the Jews because during the period of exile in Babylon some Jews remained behind in the area and they intermarried with gentile ethnicities who were brought in to the area, therefore that were considered impure half breeds, these days it is called racism. The Samaritans also worshipped on a local mountain and not in Jerusalem which would separate them from the Jews, who would consider their worship improper because it was done in the wrong place.

The woman went to the well at midday because, as someone who had been married many times and at the time was in a de facto relationship she would have been despised by society where divorce was considered a disgrace, and would also probably have been the subject of a lot of gossip in the town. Most Jews ate twice a day, in the morning and the evening so would go to the well nearer those meal times, to go at midday she could go and get her water undisturbed, not wondering what people were muttering around about her. For her to be brave enough to face others in the town to say she had met the Messiah would carry more weight among the locals than someone who would not fear so much stigma in public.