

John 4:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

Analysis

The woman's response reveals the depth of Jewish-Samaritan hostility, making Jesus' request remarkable. The parenthetical explanation ('For the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans') emphasizes how grace crosses boundaries that sin and pride erect. Christ's gospel demolishes ethnic, social, and religious barriers.

Historical Context

The Samaritan-Jewish schism dated to the Assyrian conquest (722 BC) and the return from exile. By Jesus' time, animosity ran so deep that Jews traveling from Judea to Galilee often took the longer route across the Jordan to avoid Samaria.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What modern equivalents exist to the Jewish-Samaritan divide, and how does the gospel address them?

2. How does recognizing Christ's willingness to cross boundaries embolden us to do likewise?

Interlinear Text

λέγει οὖν αὐτῷ ἡ γυναικὸς ἡ Σαμαρείτιδος
 saith Then unto him a woman of Samaria
 G3004 G3767 G846 G3588 G1135 G3588 G4542

Πῶς σὺ Ἰουδαῖοι οὖσης παρ' ἐμοῦ πιεῖν αἰτεῖς
 How is it that thou a Jew being of me drink askest
 G4459 G4771 G2453 G5607 G3844 G1700 G4095 G154

οὖσης γυναικὸς Σαμαρείτιδος οὐ γὰρ συγχρῶνται
 being a woman of Samaria no for dealings
 G5607 G1135 G4542 G3756 G1063 G4798

Ἰουδαῖοι Σαμαρείταις
 a Jew with the Samaritans
 G2453 G4541

Additional Cross-References

Acts 10:28 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

John 8:48 (Parallel theme): Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?

Matthew 10:5 (Parallel theme): These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

John 4:27 (Parallel theme): And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her?

