

SMART: THIRSTY!

Scripture used: [John 4:28-29 & 39-42 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Today's sermon is the last of our 3-week "Smart" series. Previously, Pastor Hurmon shared the importance of emotional intelligence and social skills. He explained how we need to listen to others, truly connect with them, and use that perspective to work on God's behalf. This week's sermon explained why we should be "Smart" to help other people build a relationship with God. Pastor Hurmon told the story of the Samaritan woman in [John Chapter 4 \(NLT\)](#), who invited her whole village to come listen to Jesus, who had walked for an extra 20 miles to find this broken woman. By speaking with a Samaritan who had been married five times, He violated many Hebrew traditions. But Jesus didn't think about the controversy. All He wanted to do was to help this woman begin a relationship with God! At first she argued with Jesus, resisting His invitation. But His answers helped her see that He could be the Messiah. That's when she ran home to invite others to talk to Jesus. This story shows that God expresses love through invitation, and He has done that toward us, and He does that through us to others. We can express God's love in spite of the reality that, sometimes, invitational conversations are challenging. We can draw courage as a part of our incredible NBCC community, and when we practice invitation, we practice expressing the love of God. We can live this out this week as we invite folks to Easter worship; everyone who comes next Sunday will experience God's love!

KEY POINTS

- 1) **God uses invitations.** Throughout the Gospels, Jesus is inviting people. This is the only way to have a personal relationship with God. Each person must choose to do so. We cannot be forced into believing that Jesus died on the cross to cover our sins, and that He triumphed over death. God gives us an invitation to believe, and allows us to choose. In the same way, we can invite others, and be free of the responsibility of how they will respond.
- 2) **Jesus initiates the invitation.** Jesus knew there was a reason to go out of His way to visit a tiny Samaritan village. He stood by the well at noon even though most people got water early in the morning or in the cool of the evening. Eventually this woman showed up, and we see in [John 4:27 \(NLT\)](#) that Jesus "shocked" His disciples by speaking to her. They never imagined Jesus would break so many Hebrew laws! They did not understand how much Jesus wants each and every person to know Him.
- 3) **Invitations can be inconvenient.** We are especially aware of this in Silicon Valley. Many of us are afraid to be seen as pushy, religious, or "too Christian." Pastor Hurmon was called to invite his neighbor even though he was worried about how the man would respond. It turned out that he was happy to come, and asked for [the invitation via email!](#) Jesus went far out of His way to speak to this Samaritan woman, because He knew her need for God. Are we willing to be inconvenienced to allow others to encounter God's love?

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Jesus broke many traditions when he spoke with the Samaritan woman. He even shocked His disciples! What lesson was Jesus trying to teach? Can we apply the lesson in our lives?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - The Samaritan woman spoke to Jesus about physical needs (water drawn from the well), while He responded by speaking about spiritual needs (His living water). Jesus tried to get her to see that some desires can only be satisfied through a relationship with Him. Do you ever try to replace the spiritual with the physical? What is the result?
- 3) **DO** - Easter is next Sunday. First, remember that Jesus has invited you into deeper relationship with Him. During this Holy Week, find a way to prioritize your relationship with God to consider His death on Good Friday as an act of love for you. Second, recognize that you have an opportunity to a messenger of God's love. Everyone at NBCC should be trying to overcome anxiety and share an invitation to at least one person. Don't miss this amazing opportunity to share God's radical love!. Who are YOU going to invite? What are you waiting for?