

1. What was the general attitude of the Jews toward the Samaritans, and vice versa? See Lk. 9:51-54; Jn. 4:9; 8:48. Does Mt. 10:5-6 indicate that Jesus shared this attitude?
2. In the light of your answer to question 1, how would you describe the feelings Jesus' disciples probably had at the beginning of the trip described in Jn. 4:4-8? Do you think those feelings changed when they were sent off to buy lunch? If so, how?
3. Jesus was clearly not *of* the world of the Samaritans, but in his encounters with them, was he *in* their world? What happened at the well after his disciples left? How does this help answer the question of Jesus being *in* the world of at least one Samaritan? Specifically, what message was he conveying to the Samaritan woman by his request (besides the fact that he was thirsty)?
4. Read Jn. 4:28-30, 39-43. Twice in these verses John mentioned that Jesus stayed "two days" in Sychar, the Samaritan town. Although nothing more is mentioned of the disciples, it is hard to imagine that they would not stay with Jesus during that time. If so, what do you think Jesus would be teaching them (perhaps by example) about being *in* the world of the Samaritans? For example, consider the logistics of housing and feeding a dozen men in an unfamiliar town.
5. Read Acts 8:4-8, 14, 25. After the resurrection, when the church was persecuted and the apostles were scattered around the Roman Empires, where did Philip go? How did Peter and John follow up on Philip's ministry? How do you think the way for this evangelistic success may have been prepared by the disciples two-day stay in Sychar?