

Our Symbolic Samaritans

Elders:

John Deffenbaugh
Wayne Douthitt
Glen Honeycutt
Rick Hyder
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons:

Pete Babb
Carl Cobb
Alan Cook
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Tim Murray
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Local Evangelists:

Danny Boggs
Luke Yates

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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In 722 B.C. the Israelites in the northern kingdom of Israel were taken into Assyrian captivity as punishment for their sin (I Kings 17:3-6). During this time the king of Assyria decided to implant people from all different nations into the land of Samaria (I Kings 17:24). Even though the majority of Jews were taken away, some Jews were sent back to live in their homeland (I Kings 17:27-28). Because of this demographic in Samaria, the Jews intermingled with the nations that settled there. For the next generations, those Jews would marry non-Jews and conceive children. These children were considered to some as “half-breeds” because they were part Jew/part non-Jew. Over time this place of Samaria became populated with these mixed races, therefore they were called “Samaritans”.

By the time of the first century, the nations of Judah and Samaria were at odds with each other. For the most part, the Jews in Judah looked down upon the people in Samaria because the Samaritans weren't pure enough in their bloodline. The Samaritans likewise hated the Jews in Judah because they found them to be negligent in worshiping God the correct way, among other reasons. History tells us that whenever the Jews would travel north to Galilee, instead of taking the quickest way of travel – through Samaria – they would circumvent their neighboring country. Even though this would add hours to their travel, they at least didn't have to encounter any filthy, low-down, good-for-nothing Samaritans. Although literal neighbors geographically, they were fierce enemies and avoided one another like the plague.

Jesus (a Jew) didn't give into the cultural and societal norms of His time. Rather than circumventing Samaria upon traveling to Galilee, Jesus made it a point to engage with the Samaritans. John 4:3-4 reads, “He left Judea and departed again for Galilee. And **He had to pass through Samaria.**” When in Samaria, Jesus encountered a Samaritan woman – a big no-no for Jews. John 4:7-9 says, “A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink.’ (For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to Him, ‘How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman

of Samaria?’ (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)” To the woman's initial reluctance, this encounter proved to be extremely fruitful for her. She was offered the gift of eternal living water (John 4:13-15) and was a beacon of light to her Samaritan community (John 4:28-30, 39-42).

During another instance Jesus taught about a good Samaritan who reached across the aisle of prejudice to be a good neighbor to a fallen Jew (Luke 10:25-37). His point was to stir up the testing Jews to break away from their racist customs and to approach their Samaritan neighbors with love and service. He wanted them to emulate the love of God by being good to those who seemingly don't deserve that love (John 3:16; Romans 3:23; 6:23; Luke 10:27).

You are probably not living in the same **literal** region as these Jews did some 2,000 years ago, but you possibly have some sort of “Samaria” within your life. You possibly have some **symbolic** Samaria in which you avoid at all costs. Maybe you don't go to the poor side of town because you don't want to engage with people under your pay grade. Maybe you don't converse with those who are in a different political party as you because you find them to be unworthy of your time. Maybe you don't attempt to evangelize to non-Christians because you find them undeserving. Maybe you don't engage with people of different ethnic backgrounds because you are more comfortable engaging with people of your own race.

Whatever it may be, if you are avoiding a certain demographic of people because you look down upon them with contempt, then you are just as guilty as the Jews in the first century. I challenge you to assess yourself this week and determine whether or not you have any “symbolic Samaritans”. If you come to find out that you do, make proactive efforts to no longer circumvent that demographic. The world often teaches that we should avoid others. Our culture oftentimes publishes the “norm” of “don't veer outside your group”. Don't be like the world (Romans 12:1-2). Be like Jesus and flip the social norms on their head. Love your neighbors, brothers and sisters.

Luke Yates

His own people, eager to do what is good – Titus 2:14



Pam Babb, Betty Ball, Jack Brodie, Joyce Clarkson, Angela Collett, Pete Conrow, Ed Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Tim Dawkins, Mary Jane Flint, Joe and Teresa Freund, Phyllis Goins, Faye Haught, May Hill, Wilma Hill, Rick Hyder, Doris Jones, Guy Lewis, Chester Lyons, Max Naramore, Price Naramore, Ron Naramore, Pat Risley, Mark Strohl, Helen Swem, Corin Thomlinson, Bobbie Tuggle, Margaret Wald, Ruth Ann Wilson, Treva Wolgamott, Velda Wood, Sue York.

Dear Members of Hillcrest,
Hillcrest church continues to be a blessing to my father, Glen Crumbliss. Please thank those members that recently worked on repairs at dad's home! I always feel God's presence when surrounded by nature—thanks to my mother and father. Yes, Hillcrest offers a mountain top experience.

Blessings,
Cheryl Crumbliss Jones

Dear Christian Friends,
Thank you for the cards, visits, food, phone calls, and prayers during my recent surgery and recovery. They were all deeply appreciated.

With love,
Linda Haught

Thanks to everyone for giving an extra dollar on Sundays to help someone in need. This last giving is being sent to a missionary family who is in need of medical help as well as travel expenses for that help.



It's a boy! Congratulations to John and Kristie Deffenbaugh in the birth of their grandson, Grant Henry, born to Jason and Ashley Deffenbaugh on Tuesday, October 31, weighing 6 pounds, 15 oz, and is 18.5" long.

Men's Breakfast: this Thursday at 7:00 at Braum's.



This Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. *We Sing* (Danny Boggs)
P.M. *Impossible to Renew The Again to Repentance* (Heb. 6:4-6, Danny Boggs)

Daylight saving time ends Sunday! Remember to set your clocks back an hour before you go to bed Saturday.

Devo and Donuts! Children in 5th-12th grades are invited to devo and donuts every Tuesday at 7 a.m. in the new fellowship building.



Free Wednesday night dinner for college students and young adults at 6 p.m. in the new fellowship building! Come enjoy good food and company. Bring friends!

The Tri-State Youth Series will meet at the Pittsburg this Sunday. The van will leave the Hillcrest parking lot at 3 pm.

Women's Events (see the bulletin board for details):

- Ladies' night at Mill St. church in Cassville next Monday with Kristy Tipton..
- Bible study at Amanda Flint's home at 7 p.m. Thursday, November 9.
- Ladies' day at Coffeyville with Nova Hicks November 11.

The Neosho Christian School Labor of Love auction and hog roast will begin at 5:00 Saturday, November 11, at the Civic. If you can donate items or services for the auction, please contact the school. Come enjoy a good time for a good cause!



Holiday Dinner: Our annual holiday dinner will be at 6:30 Friday, November 17, in the fellowship hall. The menu is planned. Please return an rsvp with the number in your family who will attend and the food you will bring. See Heather Cobb to be a part of the talent show.

Our congregational singing seminar begins this Friday at 7:00! It will continue at 10:00 Saturday morning, 6:30 Saturday night, and during Bible class Sunday. Stay for lunch Saturday. God deserves our best when we worship! Let's learn better how to give it to him.

7-9 p.m. Friday
10 a.m. - noon Saturday
Free lunch at noon Saturday
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Saturday
9-9:45 a.m. Sunday

PRAYER LEADERS

Sunday, November 5

- AM Opening: Bob Murray
- AM Closing: Wayne Douthitt
- PM Opening: Zechariah Anderson
- PM Closing: Luke Yates

Wednesday, November 8

- Opening: Jonathan Keith
- Closing: Joe Moreno

RECORDS	10-29-17	10-09-16
Bible Study	139	140
AM Worship	190	183
PM Worship	139	134
Wednesday	155	135
Contribution	\$14,138.00	\$7,232.98
Budget	\$7,630.58	\$7,075.67