

Pastor Randy's short devotion for Saturday, March 11th:

“So (Jesus) came to a Samaritan city call Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.” (John 4:5)

I have lived by many borders. When I was growing up we lived in a town in southwestern Minnesota that was only twenty miles from the South Dakota Border. My internship was in Rolla, North Dakota, five miles from Canada. My first call was Riga, Michigan, five miles from Ohio. I live in Scarville, two miles from Minnesota. We are blessed that we can cross so freely from one border into the other state. Back when I was an intern, you just had to show a driver's license to cross into Canada and back to the United States. Samaria was a country between Judea and Galilee. But the Samaritans and Jews truly disliked each other and didn't have much to do with one another. Most Jews, when traveling to Jerusalem would walk all the way around Samaria instead of walking through Samaria to get to Jerusalem adding a day or more to their trip. What if a boundary kept us from the Word of God or worse from God's love. Jesus walks through the boundary, the boundary of Samaria and encounters a Samaritan woman. Jesus' encounter with her includes her in a relationship as he reveals to her that he is God, the Messiah. Jesus breaks through boundaries as he brings his Father's love to the Tax Collectors, the prostitutes, the “sinners”, the sick, the infirmed, boundaries people created to say those people were outside of a relationship of God. Jesus breaks through our boundary of sin, walks right through it, throws his arms around us, forgives us and claims us as a beloved child of God.