

August 9, 2020

## Come and See

John 4:7-30, 39-42

Jeff Schoep is the former head of the largest neo-Nazi organization in the United States. In 2016, he sat down with Daryl Davis in Montgomery, Alabama. Davis is a black man from Washington, DC, and the two men met for one reason: to talk about race relations. “It all comes down to having civil discourse, and a willingness to listen to one another,” said Davis. “There are many different ways to fight [racism]. There’s no one way to solve the whole problem.”<sup>1</sup>

Davis regularly meets with white supremacists one-on-one to start an open dialogue about their beliefs. Through conversation, Davis helps them see that he is a human being on the same level as they are. Schoep’s meeting with Davis touched and changed him. “When a person is inside that bubble, they believe that joining the movement is patriotic, good, noble, and honorable. Now I see the hypocrisy,” said Schoep. “When you have that dialogue and show a person respect, compassion and empathy, that’s how you reach people. It’s not by dehumanizing them.”<sup>2</sup>

Help doesn’t always come from the sources we expect. Lifelines aren’t always thrown from the boat we just fell from. Sometimes we are rescued by strangers from different cultural, religious, or economic backgrounds. The advice we need to grow in our faith or change our path may even come from a place that we think is beneath us or a person we perceive as having less value than we have. The student book author writes, “No one group is totally innocent. This skewed attitude of superiority and its resulting discrimination might be based on appearance, sex, age, national origin, language, or just a desire to control and dominate. Whatever the reason, racism and other forms of discrimination are ugly and have no place in the body of Christ.”<sup>3</sup>

The woman at the well, while acknowledging the cultural differences between Jesus and herself, did not shy away from the chance to talk to him. Her life was forever changed because of it. Will you allow yourself to be open to cooperating and learning from those of different cultural backgrounds? You never know who might be waiting to talk to you at the well.

1. What is one lesson you have learned from someone who is from a different cultural or religious background?
2. In what ways has your prejudice or bias prevented you from working with a person or group?
3. How can you be more open to multicultural cooperation moving forward?

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<sup>1</sup>From [deseret.com/indepth/2020/7/13/21292134/racism-prejudice-white-supremacist-daryl-davis-conversion-change-conversation](https://deseret.com/indepth/2020/7/13/21292134/racism-prejudice-white-supremacist-daryl-davis-conversion-change-conversation).

<sup>2</sup>From [deseret.com/indepth/2020/7/13/21292134/racism-prejudice-white-supremacist-daryl-davis-conversion-change-conversation](https://deseret.com/indepth/2020/7/13/21292134/racism-prejudice-white-supremacist-daryl-davis-conversion-change-conversation).

<sup>3</sup>From *Adult Bible Studies*, Summer 2020, by Robert Gardner (Cokesbury, 2020); page 104.