

## JESUS-STYLE EVANGELISM: THE NONRELIGIOUS

Introduction – The number of Americans that do not identify themselves as religious is growing. A majority of young people under 30 years of age are part of this increasing segment of our population.

A. Jesus modeled how to reach out to the nonreligious.

John 4:1-8

1. Between Jewish Judea and Galilee lay Samaria. There was tremendous hostility between these two religious ethnic groups.
2. Women went twice a day, morning and evening, in large groups to the closest water source with jars to draw from the well.
3. Jesus did not offer her help, instead He humbly asked for her help.
4. We must look for ways to connect with the nonreligious, so we can share our lives and hope with them.

B. Nonreligious people act like they do not need anything, including spiritual advice.

John 4:9-15

1. Righteous men in that culture did not speak to women they were not related to in public, especially if they were alone.
2. The Samaritan women assumed Jesus' motives were impure. He would not have interacted with her if His peers were present.
3. Jesus turned the discussion about well water into a spiritual conversation over living water, the gift of God. Isaiah 58:11: *The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.*
4. Do not be discouraged when nonreligious people initially reject your attempts to reach out to them.

C. Deep wounds lead to deep discussions with the nonreligious.

John 4:16-26

1. The nonreligious act like they do not need anything including spiritual advice.

2. There are painful wounds in everyone's life because of the sting of sin. We must depend on the Holy Spirit to guide our discussions toward their real needs.
3. The nonreligious find religion confusing because of the variety of conflicting claims.
4. We should take the questions of the nonreligious seriously and lead them to a deeper understanding of true worship.
5. The nonreligious know they need a Savior and are open to receive this hope when their skepticism has been overcome.

Conclusion – The nonreligious in our time question the rational validity of Christian claims to the truth. We must be equipped to answer their questions and have an authentic alternative to offer them. This fall we are planning a series of dialogues offering rational answers to contemporary questions. Topics will include: “Is Christianity based on a leap of faith which cannot be rationally evaluated?”; “Why does it matter what anyone believes about anything at all?”; “We must choose among the major worldviews: secular humanism, Eastern mysticism, or monotheism.”