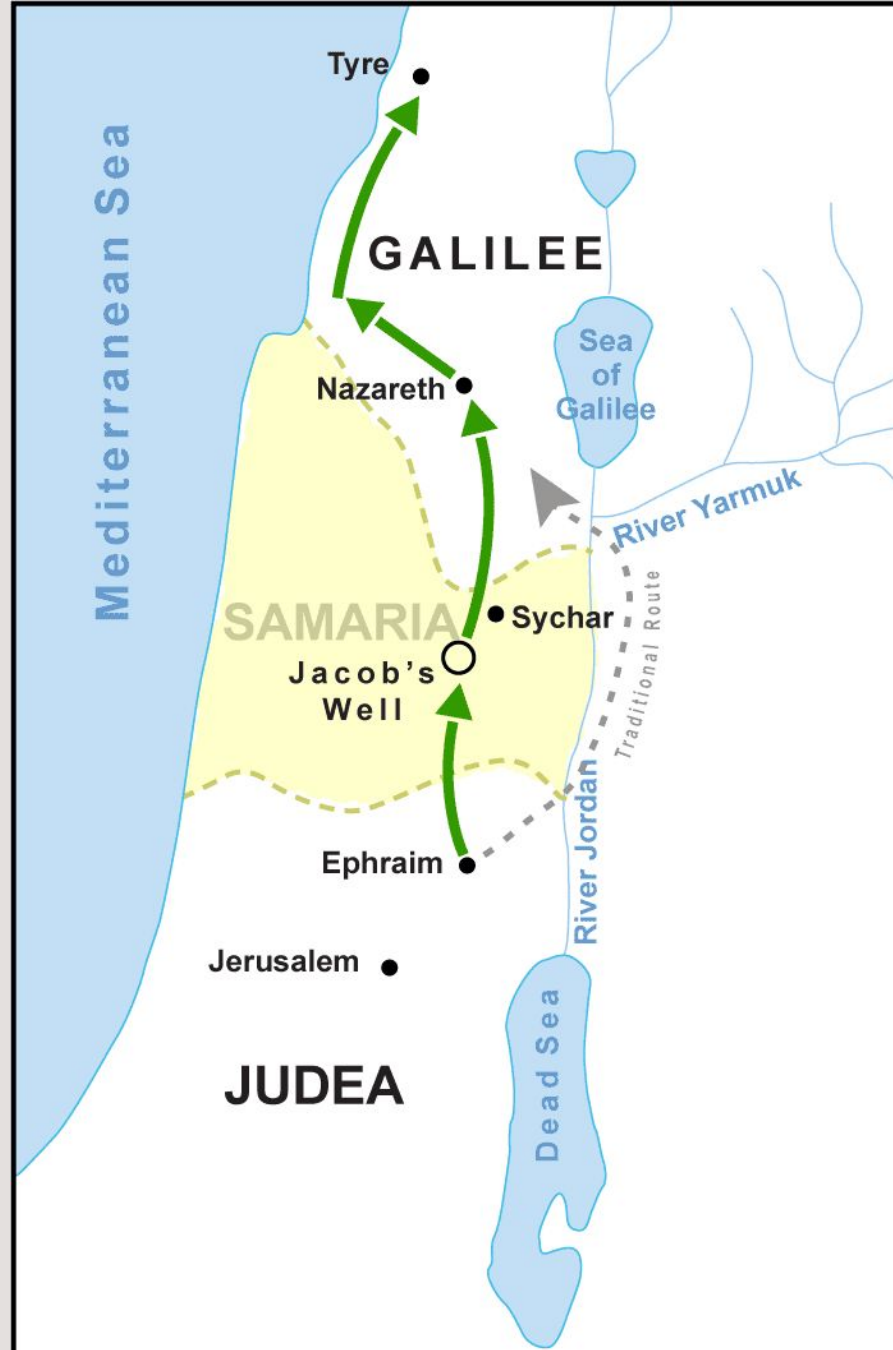


A low-angle photograph looking up at a dense canopy of green trees. The sun is positioned in the upper center, creating a bright starburst effect with rays of light filtering through the leaves. The overall atmosphere is warm and serene.

**ENCOUNTERING  
JESUS**

**A CULTURAL OUTSIDER  
ENCOUNTERS JESUS**

# **Scene 1: Dismantling Cultural Barriers**



**Jesus Passes Through Samaria**

**Jesus dismantles cultural barriers of dehumanization, exclusion, and alienation in order to build bridges of grace, dignity, relationship, and reconciliation.**

# **The Ethnic/Racial Barrier**

# **Cycle of Exclusion:**

## **1. Superiority**

# **Cycle of Exclusion:**

- 1. Superiority**
- 2. Dehumanization**



# **Cycle of Exclusion:**

- 1. Superiority**
- 2. Dehumanization**
- 3. Exclusion & Violence**

An advantage of conceiving sin as the practice of exclusion is that it names as sin what often passes as virtue, especially in religious circles. In the Palestine of Jesus' day, "sinners" were not simply "the wicked" who were therefore religiously bankrupt, but also social outcasts, people who practiced despised trades, Gentiles and Samaritans, those who failed to keep the Law as interpreted by a particular sect. A "righteous" person had to separate herself from the latter; their presence defiled because they were defiled.

Jesus' table fellowship with "tax collectors and sinners," a fellowship that indisputably belonged to the central features of his ministry, offset this conception of sin. Since he who was innocent, sinless, and fully within God's camp transgressed social boundaries that excluded the outcasts, these boundaries themselves were evil, sinful, and outside God's will. By embracing the "outcast," Jesus underscored the "sinfulness" of the persons and systems that cast them out.

Miraslov Volf

# **Cycle of Exclusion:**

- 1. Superiority**
- 2. Dehumanization**
- 3. Exclusion & Violence**
- 4. Resentment & Retaliation**

When the days were coming to a close for Him to be taken up, He determined to journey to Jerusalem. He sent messengers ahead of Him, and on the way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make preparations for Him. But they did not welcome Him, because He determined to journey to Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do You want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?” But He turned and rebuked them, and they went to another village.

Luke 9:51-55

# **The Gender Barrier**

# **The Moral Barrier**

**Like Jesus, we have to travel  
through our Samaria**



**Like Jesus, we have to *travel*  
through our Samaria**

**Like Jesus, we have to travel  
through our *Samaria***

# **Scene 2: The Encounter**

# **Cycle of Embrace:**

**1. Humility**

# **Cycle of Embrace:**

- 1. Humility**
- 2. Dignity**

# **Cycle of Embrace:**

**1. Humility**

**2. Dignity**

**3. Embrace & Sacrifice**

# **Cycle of Embrace:**

**1. Humility**

**2. Dignity**

**3. Embrace & Sacrifice**

**4. Reconciliation & Salvation**

**Acknowledge the image of God in everyone and create space for embracing them.**



**God is doing this work and we are  
invited to join him.**

# **Scene 3: A Community Transformed**