

Unlikely Destinations

Luke 8.26-39; John 4.3-42

Focus: on sharing Jesus' compelling love for those who are far from God both spiritually and culturally

RESOURCES:

Here are some helpful videos on the theme of Missions:

<https://joshuaproject.net/resources/videos>



Discussion:

- Feel free to watch any of the video resources in the sidebar before you read the passages to help underscore the need.
- Read the story of the Gerasene demoniac in Luke 8.26-39. What do you learn about Jesus from this story? What do you make of the townspeople's response? How does this man's response challenge you?
- Read the story of the Samaritan woman in John 4.3-42. Why do you think Jesus had to "pass through Samaria"? What did Jesus reveal about himself to this woman? How does the woman's response encourage you?
- How do these stories connect to our sending of missionaries to unreached peoples? What do you think your role is in helping take the gospel to the unreached? How can you engage in that?

2019 Spiritual Priority for NW

Bumper Sticker: Worth It!

- **Key Words:** Hope/Heaven
- **Full statement of priority:** to help us more fully grasp the joy and wonder of eternity with God such that we are increasingly:
 - Daily mindful of the heavenly hope that is ours in Christ
 - Willing to persevere in hardship and suffering in light of our hope
 - Eager to offer this hope to the people God has placed in our lives
- **Key verse:**
 - Romans 8.18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.
 - cf. also Matt. 5.10-12; 2 Cor. 4.16-18; Heb. 10.32-36; 1 Pet. 4.12-14
- **Prayer:**
 - pray that we would grasp the awesome hope of eternal life with God!
 - pray that our vision of heaven (and all that is associated with it) will make our present suffering worth it all such that we would persevere in loving obedience to Christ
 - pray that we would be all the more eager to share the hope of eternity with our friends, family, neighbors, co-workers and all those God puts in our lives that don't have this hope!