

Sermon Outline
Rev. Dr. S. Edd Cathey
God So Loved the Samaritans
February 28, 2016

Sermon Text: John 4:1-25

A. The new setting (1-6)
(2 Kings 17:24-28, 40-41)

B. The encounter (7-15)

C. The confrontation - bad news. (16-24)

D. The good news (25-26)
(Ecclesiastes 7:29)

[29] See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.

Jesus is the source of deep meaning and satisfaction for sinners!

God so loved sinners ... who wallow in the filth and false idols ... that he gave the Messiah through Israel for all the world.

Augustine experienced a succession of desperate searches for fulfillment: excessive pleasures, false religions, philosophy, dissipation and distractions—futilities that left him so weary of himself he could only cry out, “How long, O Lord, how long?”

The Confessions were his testimony of God’s interaction with a soul that has found rest in its Creator.

“With his heart bursting with the reality of God, he addresses his manuscript directly to the Lord as one long prayer and meditation—a prayer and meditation that will take him

five years to complete. He dips his quill and begins, “Great are you, O Lord, and greatly to be praised; great is your power, and your wisdom is infinite.”

In contrast to God, he muses, what is man? Yet there is a connection between the two. Humans, such a small part of creation and short-lived as they are, still find a need to praise God. In spite of sin, each feels the longing to reach out to his Creator. Why is this? He realizes it is the doing of God. “You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you.”

—Dan Graves