

## The Red-Letter Words of Yeshua ~ Part 7

### Yeshua Leaves for Galilee

We pick up our story of **Yeshua's** ministry in Yochanan 4:1-4. <sup>1</sup> *When Yeshua learned that the P'rushim had heard he was making and immersing more talmidim than Yochanan* <sup>2</sup> *(although it was not Yeshua himself who immersed but His talmidim),* <sup>3</sup> *Yeshua left Y'hudah and set out again for the Galil* (Galilee). <sup>4</sup> *This meant that he had to pass through Shomron* (Samaria).

As you can see on the map below, the shortest distance to the **Galil** from **Judea** was to go directly thru **Shomron**.



There had historically been animosity since the exile of the **Northern Kingdom** and the **Southern Kingdom**, which continued in **Yeshua's** day. Both groups excluded the other from their respective cultic centers, the **Jerusalem Temple** and the **Samaritan Temple** on **Mt Gerizim**. The **Samaritans**, for example, were forbidden access to the inner courts of the **Temple**, and any offering they might give was considered as if it were from a **Gentile**. Thus, although probably more accurately defined as "dissidents," it appears **Samaritans** were in practice treated as **Gentiles**. Therefore, all marriage between the groups was forbidden, and social relations were greatly restricted (Yochanan 4:9). With such criminal separation, it is not surprising that any interaction between the two groups was strained. The mere term **Samaritan** was one of contempt on the lips of **Jews** (Yochanan 8:48), and among some scribes, it possibly would not even be uttered. <sup>1</sup>

Well, the best-laid plans don't always work. I thought it would be wise to lay the background out that Yeshua was challenging conventional wisdom.

Our next post will examine that **Yeshua Meets the Women at the Well**.

<sup>1</sup> Elwell, W. A., & Comfort, P. W. (2001). **Tyndale Bible dictionary** (p. 1154).