

Gospel in Sychar

John 4:27-42

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Text:

John 4:27-42,

27. At this point His disciples came, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, “What do You seek?” or, “Why do You speak with her?”

28. So the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city and said to the men,

29. “Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?”

30. They went out of the city, and were coming to Him.

31. Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”

32. But He said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”

33. So the disciples were saying to one another, “No one brought Him anything to eat, did he?”

34. Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.

35. Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest.

36. Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.

37. For in this case the saying is true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’

38. I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor.”

39. From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all the things that I have done.”

40. So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days.

41. Many more believed because of His word;

42. and they were saying to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world.”

Commentary:

John 4:27, At this point His disciples came, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, “What do You seek?” or, “Why do You speak with her?”

I. The disciples now returned from their grocery shopping trip and were absolutely amazed to find Jesus talking with a woman.

A. The disciples marveled among themselves about this matter, but they did not question Jesus about his breach of social custom.

B. The low estate of women in those days is clearly evidenced here.

II. The Gospel of Jesus Christ has greatly elevated us all including women.

John 4:28, 29, So the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city and said to the men, “Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?”

I. At this point the woman left her waterpot, something far more important had captivated her attention, and went into the city and declared/announced, “Come see a man who told me all things that ever I did: can this be the Christ?”

II. When we see the Eternal City, everything else becomes mundane and trivial! We also leave our “waterpots.”

III. The woman did not doubt the Messiahship of Jesus. She invited the citizens of Sychar to come and see for themselves, make up their own minds about the deity of Jesus.

John 4:30, They went out of the city, and were coming to Him.

I. The people then walked across the plain to come to Jesus.

II. Poorer people were dressed in white clothes, colors being expensive and reserved for the wealthy.

III. This may have given the occasion later for Jesus’ statement, **“Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already unto harvest.” John 4:35**

John 4:31, Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”

I. Between the time the Samaritan woman left and her return with the people from Sychar, the disciples asked Jesus to have something to eat.

II. The disciples had just returned from grocery shopping.

III. The disciples knew Jesus had been hungry and thirsty because of his previous labors and his journey.

IV. The disciples were very solicitous of Jesus.

John 4:32, But He said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”

I. Jesus surprised the disciples by saying that he had meat to eat of which they were unaware.

II. Jesus looked after the spiritual needs of others before attending to his own physical needs.

III. Jesus was speaking in figurative language. The disciples took him literally.

John 4:33, So the disciples were saying to one another, “No one brought Him anything to eat, did he?”

I. It was not likely that anyone in that Samaritan area, prejudices being what they were, would have given Jesus, a Jew, a meal while the disciples were away.

II. The disciples had trouble on many occasions understanding what Jesus said. We have similar trouble understanding his teachings today.

III. On this occasion the disciples understood Jesus literally when he was speaking figuratively.

John 4:34, Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.

I. Jesus then explained by saying that the “food” of which he spoke was “to do the will of God.”

II. The possible conversion of this Samaritan village was of prime importance at that time, an opportunity that could not be wasted.

John 4:35, Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest.

I. Harvest was four months away. Harvest began about the middle of April and lasted until the middle of May. The time of this visit with these Samaritans must have been sometime between the middle of December and the last of January.

II. The disciples did not have to wait four months to harvest souls. Jesus told them to look at all the souls approaching from Sychar ready for harvesting/converting.

III. We need to look around us and harvest souls now for Christ.

IV. John used the imagery of harvesting in **Revelation 14:14-19**. **Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud was one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. And another angel came out of the temple, crying out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, “Put in your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe.” Then He who sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped. And another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, “Put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe.” So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered the clusters from the vines of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God.**

John 4:36, Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.

- I. Both sowing and reaping are needed to produce a harvest.
- II. The time of rejoicing is at the harvest, but both sowers and reapers enjoy the fruits (pay) for their labors.
- III. This is true in regard to farmers and Christian teachers.
- IV. Jesus had sown the word in the heart of the Samaritan woman, but the disciples would share in the harvest of the village of souls.

John 4:37, For in this case the saying is true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’

- I. The sower and the reaper are of equal importance in winning souls.
 - A. An evangelist might preach the word at the time of commitment to Christian discipleship, but . . .
 - B. The sowing may have been done patiently and lovingly with tears and prayers by others over many years.
- II. **1 Corinthians 3:6, I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.**

John 4:38, I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor.”

- I. The great ingathering from the Samaritan village had nothing to do with the apostle’s own efforts nor abilities.
- II. When souls are saved, we who sow and reap are nothing. It is only God who gives the increase who is worthy of praise and honor!

John 4:39, From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all the things that I have done.”

I. The “many Samaritans” now arrived and told Jesus that they had believed on him because of the testimony of the woman.

II. This response to Jesus and his teaching was a “far cry” from the rejection of the bigoted self-righteous Jewish leaders in Jerusalem to be encountered by Jesus.

III. The day of grace for all Gentiles was fast approaching. The favored status of the Jews was soon to end!

John 4:40, So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days.

I. The Samaritans invited Jesus to abide with them. He accepted their hospitality and lodged with them two days.

II. During those two days he continued his teaching and preaching.

III. How wonderful it would have been if Jesus had been welcomed everywhere he went in this manner!

John 4:41, Many more believed because of His word;

I. Many more Samaritans who had not believed on Jesus solely because of the word of the Samaritan woman came to believe on Jesus once they had themselves heard Jesus speak/teach/preach.

II. No numbers are given, but the impression is given that most everyone in Sychar came to believe on Jesus.

John 4:42, and they were saying to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world.”

I. This demonstrates a monumental change in this woman’s status.

A. Two days before this woman had gone alone to the well to draw water, to perform a routine menial task.

B. Now appreciation is expressed to her by almost the entire village for bringing them to the Savior!

II. This woman was known for having been married to five men and for, at the time she met Jesus, “shacking up” with another fellow.

III. She is now appreciated by all the believers in Sychar!

IV. How do you remember this Samaritan woman? How do God and Jesus remember her?

Conclusion:

I. Jesus taught multitudes and he taught individuals.

A. Nicodemus. John 3:1-21

B. Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well. John 4:1-43

C. Woman taken in adultery. John 8:1-11

D. Zacchaeus. Luke 19:1-10

II. To whom will you, individually or in groups, tell the story of the Savior? What will result?

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Questions

1. The disciples, upon their return from their trip to buy _____, were amazed that Jesus was speaking to a _____.

2. Why were they amazed Jesus was talking to a woman? _____

3. What customs, traditions do we observe which are human rather than divine in origin? _____

4. The woman left her _____, went into the _____ and said to the _____, "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the _____, is it?"

5. Did the Samaritan woman tell only the men about Jesus or did she tell the woman also? _____

6. Why did she tell whom she told, men only or men and women? _____

7. This Samaritan woman left the mundane, her waterpots, for the glorious, Christ. Where is your emphasis in life? _____

8. What may have given rise to Jesus' statement in V. 35, "... the fields ... are white into harvest?" _____

9. The disciples urged Jesus to eat. Jesus declined saying he had other food that they didn't know about. What was this food? _____

10. The _____ did not have to wait _____
_____ to _____. We need
to look around us and _____
_____ for _____.

11. Both _____ and _____ are needed to
produce a _____. The _____ and the
_____ are of _____ in
_____.

12. Many _____ from the city of _____
believed in Jesus because of the word of the _____.

13. Jesus stayed in _____ for _____ days.
Many others _____ because of the _____
spoken by _____.

14. _____, for we have heard for _____ and
know that this _____ is indeed the _____ of the
_____.”

15. How do you remember this Samaritan woman, as an immoral person
or as one who led the whole town of Sychar to Jesus? _____

