

The Satisfied Christian Life - John 4:27-42 - Jn11

In our last study, we saw the Lord perform open heart surgery as He spoke to the Samaritan woman's heart and offered her new life. Today, we're going to see the outcome of that "heart surgery," and in the midst of seeing the Samaritan woman's new life unfold, we're going to see an equally important lesson taught to the disciples. That lesson is "How to live a Satisfied Christian Life." So there are actually 2 interwoven teachings here – not separate teachings, but teachings that relate to one another.

We start our text today with the ministers of Jesus being baffled, even to disagreement, with the Lord's choices in His own ministry. Sounds a lot like today, doesn't it?

John 4:27

“And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, “What do You seek?” or, “Why are You talking with her?””

The disciples knew Jesus well enough to know He was definitely talking to this woman about spiritual matters, and that's why they marveled. They marveled as in, "I can't believe what He's doing. Can you believe it? Well, I can't even believe it!" Remember, the Rabbis taught that a good Jew, especially a teacher, was not to even talk to a woman in public, and every good Jew knew that talking to a Samaritan woman was doubly out of the question. You know, the disciples' ability to minister and to understand Jesus was almost non-existent at this point, and they basically stayed in the dark until they were endued with power from on high on the day of Pentecost. Only then could they really get anything done for the Lord, and that definitely has not changed.

They were obviously murmuring among themselves, but no one would even say anything to Jesus. "You say something." "No! You say something!" Now, contrast the disciples' fleshly response, caught up in their prejudice, to the woman's response of faith in the next two verses.

John 4:28-29

**²⁸ The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men,
²⁹ “Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?””**

Her question, "Could this be the Christ?" is not a lack of belief on her part, but instead she's arousing curiosity and interest. This woman was so touched by Jesus that it brought an immediate response into her life. Anytime we allow Jesus Christ to touch our heart, it brings a response as it certainly did here.

While those who Jesus had called into the ministry murmured out of prejudice, this woman, who by all Jewish standards was unworthy and unfit, went full speed into proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. And not only that, but she immediately began bringing forth fruit.

John 4:30 says

“Then they went out of the city and came to Him.”

The Greek phrase for "they went out" is the picture of a long procession. So even though her reputation was marred in the community, her witness for Jesus brought the people to Him.

Possibly the men of the city had already sensed a change in her. But meanwhile, back at Jacob's well, those who Jesus had called into the ministry were still trying to get a clue.

John 4:31

“In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.””

They had just run to buy food, and they were trying to do what was right, but they were oblivious to the true ministry going on without them.

John 4:32

“But He said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.””

About a year earlier, Jesus had a run-in over food with the Devil himself, after fasting for 40 days, and the Devil tempting Him to turn stones to bread. Jesus said then, “...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” Now, just as Jesus got the woman to see past the temporal water to the eternal water, He's now trying to get the disciples to see past the temporal food to the eternal food. The next verse tells us just how close the disciples are to getting it.

John 4:33

“Therefore the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?””

“Alright! Who brought the Lord something to eat?” That was our job! Who's weaselin' in on our ministry?” So as the Samaritan woman is out telling everyone about Jesus, the disciples are going to get a great lesson about how to live a Satisfied Christian Life. In verse 32, when Jesus said, “I have food to eat of which you do not know,” He was trying to direct the disciples' attention away from temporal things and, though they missed it, it prepared them for the lesson about to come.

John 4:34

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

Jesus is talking about what sustains Him. He's talking about the very fuel for His life. When Jesus arrived at the well back in verse 6, He was weary and certainly hungry. It was a long walk, and between ministering to the disciples and the crowds, He was tired. But as His ministry to the Samaritan woman began, all His temporal needs began to fade away and He received a supernatural refueling by doing the will of God.

At times, we've seen Billy Graham so weak and tired that he has to be helped to the pulpit, but as he begins to do the work that God has called him to do, a supernatural sustenance comes over him and all his temporal needs are suspended while he's doing God's work.

Please hear this. Being in the service of God, being in His will and doing His work, is life for the soul. I can't tell you, through the years, how many men I've seen transformed by committing to join in the work of God. We have guys in our church right now whose lives are being radically changed because they've found the supernatural fuel that only comes by serving God and doing His will.

Charles Spurgeon, in a sermon on this verse, said, “Some of you good people who do nothing but go to public meetings would be a good deal better Christians if you would just tuck up your sleeves and go to work. In doing so, you would find your spiritual health mightily restored. For very much of the sickness of Christians comes from all feeding and no working.”

Just ask those who just returned from the Mexico Ministry trip. They came back strengthened, encouraged, and renewed, and anxious to go again. We’re always telling people here about the secret of serving the Lord, and those who serve here would tell you it’s doing the work of God, in the will of God, that keeps them spiritually healthy.

So if you’ve been growing in your relationship with Jesus Christ and you sense there’s still something missing, there’s a very good chance that what is missing is service unto Him, doing the will and work of God. And this word “will” brings up another issue because we want to know what the will of God is for our lives, don’t we? Sometimes people say, “Well, if I knew what the will of God was for my life, then I’d do it.” But the real question is, “Are you doing the extent of God’s will that has been revealed to you?” God reveals His general will to us right here in the Bible, such as:

- 1) Truly making Jesus Lord of our lives;
- 2) Being filled with and walking in the Holy Spirit; and
- 3) Living a sanctified life, set apart for God.

If we will truly submit to His will that has already been revealed to us, then while we are living in “His revealed will,” He will continue to reveal more and more of His specific will to us.

Again, John 4:34 says

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

You want to know how to live a Satisfied Christian Life? Jesus says:

- 1) Submit to the will of God; and
- 2) Do the work of God.

If we will truly base our lives on that foundation, we will live a Satisfied Christian Life! What’s so great about this story is that Jesus immediately gives the disciples a chance to put this lesson into practice.

John 4:35

“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!”

I want to give you a picture of what’s going on here. Back in verse 28, the woman went into the city and told the men about Jesus, and in verse 30, it says:

John 4:30

“Then they went out of the city and came to Him.”

While they were coming, Jesus was teaching the disciples this great lesson. And now, Jesus looks up and there's a crowd of people coming out of the city to Him because of the woman's testimony. Jesus says, "I know normally there's a time between planting and harvesting, BUT LOOK right down the road. Here they come, ripe for the harvest! Just moments ago, I planted the seed, and here comes the harvest already. This is the day of the harvest. Put aside all your pre-conceptions, all your prejudice, and your baggage, and join me in the harvest for eternity."

What I think is so cool here is Jesus is getting the disciples to "partner" with Him in God's work. He's going to say, "Look, guys. I planted the seed. I began the work. All you have to do is submit to the will of God. Join in the harvest and you can join in the rewards."

John 4:36

"And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together."

In the context of this story, Jesus is clearly trying to get the disciples to join Him in God's work. Jesus sowed the seed, and now He's offering the disciples to join in the reaping, to receive wages and gather fruit for eternal life. And the only way that they can join in is:

- 1) Submit to God's will; and
- 2) Participate in God's work.

That is SO cool. In verses 37-38, we see how we can partner together in God's work.

John 4:37-38

³⁷ For in this 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 labors."

This is so true for us today. If we are submitting to God's will and doing God's work, then we are satisfied, whether we are sowing or reaping or something in-between. No matter what role we play in the ministry, we are completely satisfied when we know that we are operating in HIS will and participating in HIS work. When we each accept that part of the work that He's called us to, then we all share in equal reward.

Now, I know you've heard "humble pastors" say, "No matter what your role in the ministry is, we're all equal in God's eyes." Well, I'm here to tell you – it really is TRUE!! I don't get any "extra credit," nor does our Worship Leader, or anyone else. Each one of us who are submitted to the will of God and doing the work of God all share equally in the wages of God. And, honestly, I don't know what all those wages will be for eternity, but I know what some of those wages are in this life. Some of the wages of submitting to God's will and doing God's work are:

- A "satisfied spirit"
- A "content heart," and
- A "fulfilled life" in Christ.

Now those are pretty tall orders. What's incredible is they come from just two foundational commitments:

- 1) Submitting to the will of God; and
- 2) Doing the work of God.

And I believe we see the result of the disciples catching on to this lesson in the next few verses.

John 4:39-41

“³⁹ And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I ever did.”

⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days.

**⁴¹ And many more believed because of His own word.
and so there was a great harvest among the forsaken Samaritans”**

Without a doubt, the disciples had to play a part in it, though they started with prejudice and contempt. Verse 39 says that many of the Samaritans believed. Then Jesus and His disciples stayed there 2 days to reap the harvest, which means Jesus broke about a hundred Jewish rules of prejudice by staying with them, dining with them, communing with them, and then a revival broke out. Verse 41 says, “many more believed, because of His own word.”

What an incredible picture of Jesus drawing us into the ministry so we can share in the blessing that comes from the fruit that He produces. What a great God we serve. There’s just one more thing I’d like you to see.

John 4:42

“Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.””

There are two important lessons in this last verse. First, nobody believes because of what you or I say. It is only as they hear Christ in their own hearts that they really can believe. Our only job is as a “directional sign,” simply pointing to Jesus, and when they see Him for themselves, they will believe. The other thing to notice here is the Samaritans were the very first people to call Jesus “the Christ” and to call Him “the Savior of the world.” Jesus Christ came to the outcast and the forsaken, and He came to heal, to restore, and to give life – eternal life. And then He gives us the opportunity to join Him in that great eternal work, and although it’s really all His doing, He blesses us with the wages of the harvest. And in the midst of all that, He gives us the guaranteed foundation for living a “Satisfied Christian Life.”

- 1) Submit to the will of God,
- 2) Do the work of God,

And you will have supernatural food to sustain you and satisfy you. Only then can you live a “Satisfied Christian Life.”