



Part of the PLAN *John 4:27-42*

Have you ever wanted to be a part of something that REALLY mattered? Today we learn a discipleship lesson reminding us that God wants to use us in His plan to change the world.

Jesus Reveals Himself to a Samaritan Woman

John 4:25-27 (CSB) ²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that **the Messiah is coming**” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” ²⁶ Jesus told her, “**I, the one speaking to you, am he.**” ²⁷ Just then his disciples arrived, and they were amazed that he was talking with a woman. Yet no one said, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

I...am he. There is *NO place in all the gospels where Jesus reveals His true identity so quickly & so clearly.* Yet He reveals Himself to an immoral Samaritan woman.

His disciples were **amazed** [NET *shocked*, ESV *marveled*], *shocked* that Jesus would be speaking to a woman...a Samaritan woman (both of these were cultural ‘no-nos’). Jesus refused to allow cultural expectations to stop Him from treating this woman like she mattered. Further, Jesus cares for people with mixed-up religious beliefs, divorced multiple times, & those living in a sexual sin.

Hearing the Message...Sharing the Message

John 4:28-30 (CSB) ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar, went into town, and told the people, ²⁹ “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. **Could this be the Messiah?**” ³⁰ They left the town and made their way to him.

The people of the town consider this claim was worth a look. What started as a brief encounter at a well between 2 people became *a parade of people* to check out Jesus for themselves.

John 4:31-34 (CSB) ³¹ In the meantime the disciples kept urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³² But he said, “I have food to eat that you don’t know about.” ³³ The disciples said to one another, “Could someone have brought him something to eat?” ³⁴ **“My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work,”** Jesus told them.

Have you ever been a part of something that is more fulfilling than easing your hunger? That’s how Jesus felt that day. His stomach might have been growling, but there was something more important at that moment, **“to do the will of him who sent me.”**

🕒 When’s the last time YOU sacrificed a meal, a schedule, a dollar, or a good night’s rest...to do the Father’s will?

🌟 **Charles Spurgeon** challenged his church with these words:

Some of you good people, who do nothing except go to public meetings, the Bible readings, and prophetic conferences, and other forms of spiritual dissipation, would be a good deal better Christians if you would look after the poor and needy around you. If you would just tuck up your sleeves for work, and go and tell the Gospel to dying men, you would find your spiritual health mightily restored, for very much of the sickness of Christians comes through their having nothing to do. All feeding and no working makes men spiritual dyspeptics [spiritual indigestion]. Be idle, careless, with nothing to live for, nothing to care for, no sinner to pray for, no backslider to lead back to the cross, no trembler to encourage, no little child to tell of a Savior, no grey-headed man to enlighten in the things of God, no object, in fact, to live for; and who wonders if you begin to groan, and to murmur, and to look within, until you are ready to die of despair?¹

YOUR NOTES

¹ Charles H. Spurgeon, Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, Vol. 55 (Pasadena, TX: Pilgrim, 1979), p. 128.

Jesus challenges his disciples to get their eyes off their own daily needs for a few moments, and look to the eternal needs of those around them...

John 4:35-38 (CSB) ³⁵ “Don’t you say, ‘There are still four more months, and then comes the harvest’? Listen to what I’m telling you: Open your eyes and look at the fields, because they are ready for harvest. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving pay and **gathering fruit for eternal life**, so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together. ³⁷ For in this case the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸ I sent you to reap what you didn’t labor for; others have labored, and you have benefited from their labor.”

A spiritual harvest was about to take place...a day the disciples of Jesus would never forget...a day when they realized what we must realize...

BIG TRUTH: God saved us to send us.

God invites and empowers us to participate in His plan to save mankind.

Despite doing no work to this point, Jesus **sent** them **to reap**, to help harvest the Samaritans who are walking toward them. The Scriptures don’t tell us about the **others** who had **labored** there, accept for this interesting insight about John the Baptist’s ministry (John 3:23).

John 3:23 (CSB) ²³ John also was baptizing in **Aenon** near Salim, because there was plenty of water there. People were coming and being baptized,

Spiritual Teamwork

1 Corinthians 3:6-9 (CSB) ⁶ **I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.** ⁷ So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. ⁹ For **we are God’s coworkers.** You are God’s field, God’s building.

God used Paul and Apollos as part of the plan. Paul **planted** (the first to share). **Apollos watered** what Paul had planted. Then God **gives the growth.** We don’t save, God does. Yet He uses US as *part of the plan!* **We are God’s coworkers!**

QUESTION: How would it encourage you to know that God is at work, using others to prepare the person you are nervous about sharing with?

Pointing People to Jesus

John 4:39-42 (CSB) ³⁹ Now **many Samaritans** from that town **believed in him** because of what the woman said when she testified, “He told me everything I ever did.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ **Many more believed** because of what he said. ⁴² And they told the woman, “We no longer believe because of what you said, since we have heard for ourselves and know that **this really is the Savior of the world.**”

The woman’s story led others to check out Jesus for themselves. God can use our stories in the same way. We share our story of how Jesus forgives and fills us with purpose, hope, & life. Then we invite them to consider HIM. Let them see Jesus in YOU and encourage them to seek Jesus in the Scriptures.

This ‘random’ meeting with a woman at the well turned into a 2 day village revival with Jews eating & staying with Samaritans. And the people **believed** in Jesus!

If the disciples had it their way, they would have had a lunch break, and then moved on to their next destination. But Jesus had another plan, a plan that would make them uncomfortable, a plan to get his disciples off the sideline and get on the field. Throughout His ministry Jesus trained & sent His disciples out because they were to be **Part of the PLAN.** They came to understand that **God SAVED us to SEND us.**

Just before His ascension, Jesus gave His disciples specific marching orders that likely caused them to remember their experience in Samaria.

Acts 1:8 (CSB) ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and **Samaria**, and to the end of the earth.”

They had already been there! They had seen how Jesus revealed Himself to these folks and they had been **Part of the PLAN!** But there was MORE WORK TO BE DONE...there still is!

God IS at work. And He's NOT working alone. He uses His people to prepare the soil, plant & water the seeds, then He sends some to harvest the spiritual fruit.

- Who has God used you YOUR life? What if they had NOT obeyed God to impact you?
- **Are YOU a Part of the PLAN?**

BIG TRUTH: God saved us to send us.

FEET2FAITH

1. **PRAY for God to USE you and others (Luke 10:2).** Pray everyday and look for the opportunities.
2. **PREPARE for God to use you.** Grow in the Lord. Get in the Scriptures. Ask someone to SHOW you how to share the gospel. Make time with believers who are preparing to be used [i.e. Growth Groups - Sunday mornings, Wed evenings; Small Groups meet throughout the week].

* **Want to talk further?** Please contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon! Or call our **deacons & wives:** Tom & Martha Waddail, Steve & Debbie Bass, Freddy & Joyce Howard, Jere & Darlene Burnette, Alan & Christy Androski, Willy & Melissa Gamalero.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What challenged or encouraged you from today's teaching? (Look back over your notes and share!)
2. Who has God used in YOUR life to help you seek Jesus? Who planted, who watered?
3. So you're nervous about sharing Jesus with someone...How would it encourage you to know that God is already at work using others to prepare the person for what you have to share?
4. **Read 1 Corinthians 3:6-9.** How does this passage encourage and challenge you?
5. **Read John 4:28-30.** What are some lessons we learn from Jesus by how He treats the Samaritan woman?
6. **Read John 4:39-42.** What are some practical ways we can help others to seek Jesus for themselves beyond just listening to our stories and why does this matter?
7. Are YOU a Part of the PLAN? Have you shared Jesus with anyone recently? If not, why not? (fear, lack of training, lack of opportunities or something different?)
8. Share how you can pray for one another this week and make a phone call to check on each other this week.