

Title: *Eyes on the Road*

Text: John 4:27-42

KEY VERSE: "Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest." John 4:35b

HOMILETICAL IDEA: We must see what Jesus sees if we will do what He would have us do.

Hook: "Destinations and Journeys"

Date: 01.08.23

Form: Inductive

Introduction: Destinations and Journeys

- Jesus and His Disciples aren't on the same page.
- John surprisingly focuses on what didn't occur.

Back Story:

- The Route
- The Rest Stop
- The Woman

1. They Didn't Ask (John 4:27-30)

27 Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" 28 So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" 30 They went out of the town and were coming to him. John 4:27-30

To see Jesus speaking to a Samaritan woman violated every imaginable cultural norm

- Jews had no dealings with Samaritans
- Men would often not engage women in public conversation
- Many Rabbis wouldn't even speak to their wives in a public setting
- The time of day suggests the questionable nature of her story

Surely, she left that moment with evident excitement, enthusiasm, and joy

Why didn't they ask?

- Was it lunch?
- Was it Galilee?
- Were they hesitant to question Him?

Jesus provides the answer. They didn't ask, because...

2. They Didn't Know (John 4:31-34)

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 said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?" 34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. John 4:31-34

Food you do not know about

- Disciples wondered if someone else had brought Him food.
- Not food hidden from their sight, but food you have not perceived/understood.

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

- The disciples did not understand this moment
- They're likely focused on what Jesus meant for them and maybe for Galilee
- They didn't expect Him to have purposes here!

Like the woman, they thought He was the Messiah, but they didn't understand what that would mean for this place.

- He's more than they imagined!
- The promised kingdom is upon them!
- God has come to this place!
- God's purposes are unfolding around them
 - Jesus had just engaged the longest one-on-one conversation recorded in the Gospels
 - Jesus had just revealed himself as Messiah for the very first time—and they missed it!
 - Jesus had just brought life-changing hope to a lonely and broken woman

What a contrast between vs.28-30 and vs.31!

28 So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 29"Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" 30 They went out of the town and were coming to him. 31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." John 4:28-31

Could we get so wrapped in our stuff that we miss what God might be doing around us?

What if He's creating conversations around us that He wants us to be a part of? My food, Jesus said, is to do the will of Him who sent me and finish His work

34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. John 4:34

Remember 12-year old Jesus when His parents had been frantic looking for him *"And he said to them, 'Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them." Luke 2:49-50*

How did they not know? Given who He is, what would they expect Him to be doing?

They didn't ask, because they didn't know. And it's really because...

3. They Didn't See (John 4:35-38)

35 Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. 36 Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. 37 For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and

another reaps.’ 38 I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” John 4:35-38

“Open your eyes,” Jesus pleaded with them.

“Do you not say ‘There are yet four months...’”

- Back in verse 25, the woman had said *When Messiah comes...*

25 The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” John 4:25

- But Jesus said, “I am HE!” *Someday has come!*

Life up your eyes!

- We’ve got to see what Jesus sees if we’re ever going to do what He’d have us do
- What is “it” Jesus wants us to see? Frankly, it’s not a “what” but a “who!”

He continues the harvest analogy

36 “Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life so that the sower and reaper may rejoice together. John 4:36

Back in verse 34, Jesus said his food was to accomplish or complete the Father’s work

34 Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. John 4:34

Now He and the Father rejoice together for what the Father started

He is finishing that work in the life of this woman and in this Samaritan village

37 For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ 38 I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” John 4:37-38

One sows, another reaps – even the lunch they’d purchased shows this

The focus shifts back to the woman. The disciples didn’t ask because they didn’t know & didn’t see. But the woman...

4. She Didn’t Stop (John 4:39-42)

39 Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, “He told me all that 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 And many more believed because of his word. 42 They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.” John 4:39-42

Both the woman and the disciples thought that the Messiah was out at that well

- But, their reactions to that belief are radically different
- She went into town on a mission; they went into town only looking for lunch

Many are believing in Jesus because of her testimony - “He told me all that I ever did!”

39 Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.” John 4:39

- Two more days - Something he still remembers 50 years later

40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. John 4:40

The disciples would figure out this Gospel mission, don't worry about them
But what about us? What happens when the focus shifts to us?

- What we see in John 4...this is still Jesus' plan
- This is why His Spirit doesn't dwell in buildings any longer
- This is why He said that we are His Church, that it's us—we're His Church
- God has brought us together, not just so we can enjoy the things we do in here
- What we do in here is to help us make a difference out there...

Same Gospel, the Same Jesus, the Same Purpose, surrounded by the Same Massive Need

41 And many more believed because of his word. 42 They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world." John 4:41-42

Don't say "Someday..."

"Lift up your eyes and see that the fields are white for harvest."

CONCLUSION

If you don't know Jesus this morning, I hope you'll see the woman at the beginning of this story

1. She is proof that Jesus' love crosses ethnic and racial barriers
2. She is proof that Jesus' love plunges to the deepest sin
3. She is proof that Jesus' love targets even the most distant individual

If you do know Jesus this morning, and you have experienced His love & the hope He brings

I hope you'll see the woman at the end of this story, and see what she saw in your own village

Full Text – John 4:27-42

²⁷ Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" ²⁸ So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, ²⁹ "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" ³⁰ They went out of the town 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 said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?" 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, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. ³⁶ Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

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