

John 4:31-54 – 22 March 2026

“Lift Your Eyes: Beyond The Earthly”

Introduction

*We're finishing now Jesus' 1st year of ministry

*He's been collecting disciples and followers

*He's only done a few miracles, and some healings begin at this time

*In 1st half of John 4 Jesus intentionally went thru Samaria to talk with the women at the well

*It's a great model for evangelism

*Now, right on the heels of this great example of offering a soul eternal life, what's in Jesus' mind?

*It's to keep His disciples' minds on eternity

*Let's maintain viewing life with heaven in mind

Today, we'll learn not to get distracted by 3 earthly things

#1 – Don't focus on diet but on the dying (Vs 31-38)

Read 4:31-34

1. Jesus again is stuck on thinking of the spiritual rather than the earthly
 - a. One accused Bob Hoekstra saying, 'You're so heavenly minded, you're no earthly good'
 - b. He responded, 'You *can only be* earthly good *to the extent that* you're heavenly minded'
2. Disciples are stuck thinking only earthly things
 - a. They wanted Jesus to eat for they loved Him, but He wanted them to 'eat up' God's will, for He loved them
3. How did God intend for Jesus to spend His time walking around on earth
 - a. Read John 6:38-40 – He's to offer people the gift of believing in Him unto eternal life
 - b. As Zacchaeus opened his heart to Jesus, he was saved (Read Luke 19:9-10)
4. When Jesus compared doing God's will to food, He says that God's will is what's necessary

- a. “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word from the mouth of God (Deut 8:3)
 - b. Can *we* say to do God’s will is the most necessary part of my life?
5. Have you ever seen someone enjoying something so much that they say, “I live for this” – that’s what Jesus is saying in vs 34
- a. His very purpose to be alive on earth is to do and finish God’s purposes
6. The word here for finish (*teleos*) is what Jesus did and said on the cross (It is finished)
- a. Jesus could not only say, “I live for this”, but “I died for this”

Read 4:35

1. Still teaching spiritually but using earthly language, He says, don’t have an attitude of waiting
 - a. The harvest of souls can happen at any time
 - b. Specifically, the men of Sychar are coming out of this city right now to see them!
2. What a privilege we can constantly be on the lookout for those who are ready to receive truth

Read 4:36-38

1. There are times of sowing & times of reaping
 - a. Sower does the work without reward
 - b. Reaper does no work & gains the harvest
 - c. Sometimes this is the same person
2. Jesus is allowing the disciples to reap a harvest of souls from work others did in the Samaritans
 - a. Book of Moses has poured into their lives
 - b. John the Baptist & Jesus have poured into
 - c. The disciples are about to get the reward

#2 – Don't focus on men's words but on Christ's words (Vs 39-46a)

Read 4:39-42

1. They stayed there for two days
 - a. This is amazing considering the cultural hatred & fear they could be under
 - b. Do we see value of setting aside fear & hatred?
2. Secondhand faith becomes firsthand faith
 - a. We must each come and check out Jesus firsthand thru reading the Bible

- b. People's words are imperfect, yet God's Word is perfect able to convert the soul
- 3. Our job is to bring people to Jesus in His Word
 - a. Anything I can talk you into, another can talk you out of – we must be convinced by God
 - b. The people of Berea listened to Paul talk about Jesus and eternal life, but they *believed* b/c they took Paul's words and confirmed them by the Bible (Read Act 17:11-12)
- 4. Now the disciples get to be a part of harvesting these souls but it's happening b/c of God's Word not their efforts (Read I Cor 3:6-7)

Read 4:43-46a

- 1. To make it even clearer let's read Matt 13:53-58
 - a. If they could get something out of Jesus, they would but they weren't in it to believe (Read John 6:26-27)
- 2. We're given a contrast between the Samaritans and the Galileans
 - a. It says the Galileans received Jesus "for all that He did in Jerusalem"

- i. Like turning over the tables – they wanted a political overthrow of Rome
 - b. This is a great contrast to the Samaritans seeking to believe Jesus and obtain eternal life
3. Jesus will come to anyone that wants to listen
 - a. During this time in Galilee, Jesus will call Matthew the sinner and the Pharisees can't understand it (Mar 2:16-17)

#3 – Don't focus on healings but on the Healer (Vs 46b-54)

Read 4:46b-48

1. This official of Herod's came 20 miles from Capernaum to Cana b/c he believed it would work
2. This rebuke of Jesus isn't directed at the royal officer, but all the Galileans listening
 - a. We'll learn this in vs 50
 - b. Jesus is saying this to get the focus off the miracles and onto believing His words of life

3. His ask was for Jesus to come & fix the problem
 - a. We often see faith at different maturity levels
 - b. Good that he knew Jesus could save his son
 - c. Didn't initially believe Jesus could do it from a distance

Read 4:49-50

1. This makes it clear that it was the listeners & not this man that Jesus was referring to about signs & belief b/c this man believed!
2. He believed Jesus' words & that's the victory!
3. Notice that he didn't receive what he wanted in his method – that rarely happens
4. Signs are the authentication Jesus has power to save forever but they're not the power itself
 - a. A short-term miracle is nothing unless there is a permanent healing
 - b. Even before Jesus heals, He intending to get the people's attention off the healing & onto the Healer

Read 4:51-54

1. Here we have the confirmation that Jesus did what He said and the man's faith was realized
2. Notice he takes his faith home & it affects all
 - a. This is like the Philippian jailor (Act 16)
3. Promise Keepers study: Shows the chances that the whole family will get saved
 - a. If a child is saved, 3% chance they all will
 - b. If Mom is saved, 17% chance they all will
 - c. If Dad is saved, >90% chance they all will

Conclusion

Have you had your eyes lifted to the heavens today?

1. **Don't focus on diet (self-sustainment) but on the dying**
2. **Don't focus on men's words (secondhand information) but on Christ's words**
3. **Don't focus on healing but on the Healer**

What are you focused on today that needs to change?

I lift my eyes up, my help comes from the Lord