

Introduction:

I. Delayed Continuation:

A. The Conversation and Result of the Woman at the Well

1. When we closed the last lesson, we had seen that people came listening to the woman at the well who was with Jesus in a crucial conversation (4:7-26).
2. Particularly, the people who heard what the woman was saying went to Jesus (4:30).
3. The impact with the people from the testimony of the woman does come back and picks up in v. 39.
4. But before v. 39, we have another crucial conversation—this time with Jesus and his disciples (v. 31-32).

II. Keeping the Context in Mind:

A. The Wedding of Cana:

1. All of these succeeding verses from the Wedding of Cana (John 2:1-12) is to be kept in mind.
2. The believing and unbelieving aspects of Jesus miracles, but also that Jesus is the one who gives life seen via the example of Jesus turning the water into wine.

B. Jesus and Nicodemus:

1. As well, we cannot forget is the backdrop to all of these scenes is John 3:1-21: Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus.
2. In mind is, still, Jesus':
 - a) Authority
 - b) His role in His humanity
 - c) Baptism of the Spirit
 - d) Overall, ministry of salvation

C. Jesus' Confirmation to the Woman (Immediate Context)

1. We must equally not forget that what follows in two conversations—one with the disciples and then with the Samaritans—comes from Jesus confirming to the woman that He is the Messiah who has come (v. 26)

Exegesis of John 4:31-45

I. Jesus' Conversation With the Disciples (vv. 31-38)

A. Jesus' Seemingly Snarky Comment (vv. 31-34)

1. First, we must remember that the disciples had left to get food (v. 8), so their return was no surprise but Jesus took the opportunity to teach them.

2. However, before the teaching moment, one thing that is happening is similar with the woman at well: the disciples are not getting what Jesus is saying (v. 33)!
 3. Jesus makes an important comment that we, from the view of the narrator, or John the Apostle, is that Jesus is speaking of His mission as the one who will be lifted up (3:14-15).
 4. Again, the disciples miss the point, so Jesus is more forward (v. 34).
- B. The Harvest of Salvation (v. 35-38)
1. Jesus is still speaking to His disciples and is telling them, (while also keeping the crowds of Samaritans in mind) that the “fields are white for the harvest” (v. 35).
 - a) Jesus is utilizing an analogy to communicate a spiritual reality that was happening in the “now” of John chapter 4.
 - b) That is, the disciples are concerned about food, and its not that Jesus is not hungry nor concerned about eating, but sees the exact purpose of His presence to begin with: to save the children of God (1:12-13).
 - (1) Remarkably, this includes the listening Samaritans!
 2. Harvest With Blessing (vv. 36-37)
 - a) Jesus utilizes another analogy, this time, regarding wages.
 - b) Normally, once work via the harvest is done through the gathering, people were paid their wages for the work.
 - c) Jesus as the reaper and the Father as the sower, however, is showing to us the blessing of the harvest that the people are receiving.
 - (1) That is, the people have been prepared by the Father (the sower) to be harvested by the reaper (Jesus) for eternal life (v. 36).
 - (2) God the Father and the Son are rejoicing at the harvest and the reaping of it (v. 37)
 - (3) Thus, the wages is twofold:
 - (a) Both the joy between the Father and the Son
 - (b) And the souls of the Samaritans being saved
- C. Jesus’ Last Point (v. 38)
1. Jesus is pointing out to the disciples that He is the one laboring for the blessing of what is being “reaped” or harvested or what they are receiving through hard work.
 2. I.e. The presence of God in Jesus Christ for salvation.
 3. Jesus is noting that the disciples are being blessed to be apart of the labor of, most likely, the prophets and maybe even John the Baptist since they told of Jesus coming as the promised Messiah.

II. The Response of the Samaritans and Jesus' Departure (vv. 39-45)

A. Belief from the Samaritans (vv. 39-42)

1. The Samaritans held belief both in the testimony of the woman and from Jesus' own words.
2. Here, we see the means of grace both in the testimony of the woman and also the mouth of the Savior.
3. There is a beautiful note, here, about the Samaritans asking Jesus to stay with them and Jesus doing so (v. 40)
 - a) Such an action and point in the narrative is remarkable considering the hostility between Jews and Samaritans.
 - b) This is the beauty of a proto Ephesians 2, as it were, and the unity and love that comes in Jesus Christ's death and resurrection.

B. Jesus' Departure (vv. 43-45):

1. Jesus' departure takes Him into Galilee.

Observations:

I. Salvation by testimony

- A. Notice that the testimony of the woman proved to be vital as some believed on her account (v. 39).
- B. The means of grace through testimony is powerful and necessary for the advancement of the Gospel.

II. Salvation by the Words of Jesus

- A. Some of the Samaritans moved beyond the words of the woman and heard from Jesus and they believed!
- B. Modern day, Jesus speaks through His written Word and is sufficient for salvation—we cannot miss that Jesus uses such a means of grace.

III. Salvation only in Christ

- A. The people believed because of His Word and the saw that Jesus was the Savior of the World (vv. 41-42).
 1. We are not sure if the "Word" they heard from Jesus was His conversation with the disciples or it was within the two days He was with them (v. 43), but it was due to Jesus, Himself, that they believed.
 2. The only true means we ultimately have is the Saving Grace of Jesus Christ extending to us faith and belief.