

“Sowing and Reaping” - John 4:27-54

Please Stand and Open Your Bibles to John 4:1-26

Before we pick back up into our story from last week, for those that may be new, let us remind ourselves of the purpose of John's writing of this gospel...

John 20:30-31

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

All four gospels were written to different audiences and John's was written to everyone that they may believe. John does this by presenting Jesus as the Son of God who came to die for the sins of the world. John has been up to this point giving us some details about the beginning of His ministry. After the baptism of John, He went up to Jerusalem for the Passover, cleansed the Temple the first time, had a meeting with Nicodemus, went to Judea and now is headed to Galilee via Samaria. As we saw last week and just read the disciples have gone into the city and left Jesus at the well where he meets the woman. He used

her natural thirst to show her a spiritual need. It was through this conversation that leads to this where we left off...

John 4:25-26

The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.” 26 Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.”

As we will see in a moment this is the point where she believed. This is where we pick up our story today...

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?”

Remember these are Jewish men that are out of their depth. They are in an area that they would never go on their own and around people that they have no dealings with. One of the lessons that these guys need to learn is that Jesus did not come so they could serve Him. That was the mindset with the Rabbis and their disciples. They were going to get lunch for Him and while they are gone here comes this woman. So, they feel like they have done something wrong. I could imagine they were all looking at each other wondering who was supposed to

stay with Jesus? Have you noticed that everyone is thinking in the natural here? Nicodemus, this woman and now the disciples! But what is cool now is the woman's priorities have now been suddenly changed!

John 4:28-30

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?" 30 Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

Remember what Jesus told Nicodemus?

John 3:7-8

"Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Here is a changed woman! She is no longer concerned about the water. She leaves the pot behind and runs into the city. But another change we see is she is no longer the recluse that is trying not to be seen. The thing that drove her past is no longer keeping her from telling people about Jesus. And finally look at her message. How complete is it? Did she go and seek an

evangelism class? Is she worried about what little she knew?
NO. She went and shared what the Lord had done for her!

Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

That is what you are called to do. Everyone’s story is different. But if God has touched you just tell others and watch God work! This is the lesson that Jesus is trying to teach His disciples.

John 4:31-33

In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”
32 But He said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.”

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

Hey, don’t feel bad if you are clueless, you are in good company. If I had a dollar for every time I felt clueless, we could go out and purchase our own building. This is the point. It is not about us; it is all about Him. Did you know that you and I don’t save anyone? They have a saying amongst pastors called

“Evangelically Speaking”. Meaning we always fudge the numbers higher to make the meeting sound better. How many came forward last meeting? Get the point? How dare us try to take credit for what God is doing! This is why I try to stay away from altar calls. I want God to do the work and for Him to get the glory. I know myself too well and I don’t want to give my pride anything to boast about.

God Brings in the Harvest

John 4:34-42

I read this whole passage because at the same moment that He is giving this discourse to His disciples; I believe that the men of the town were coming down the road to speak with Jesus. Remember this is shortly after the Passover, and harvest was still a way off. When wheat is at its peak before harvesting it turns white. Do you know what these Samaritans would have looked like coming toward them on the road? * This is a picture of modern-day Samaritans worshipping on Mount Gerizim. Notice the outfits? They haven’t changed in 2000 years!

Two things we learn from this. The Disciples are called to reap what is already sowed. Did you know that by the time someone has come to Christ they have been witnessed to multiple

times. Plus, the Holy Spirit is the One who brings someone to the point of conversion.

Secondly, God used the simple message of women to win many to Him. Paul would highlight this to the Corinthians, who had a huge pride issue...

1 Corinthians 3:5-8

Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

We are all workers in God's field doing what we are called to do but it is God who does the saving.

They also got to witness what true revival looks like. They stayed two days and the whole town got saved! True revival happens in the most unexpected places. Not one church leader in 1967 was looking at the Hippies and saying here is where God is going to bring about a great American Revival. Even Pastor Chuck said it was his wife Kay that was praying for

them while he was thinking they needed to get a haircut and a job! The last thing these Disciples thought when they got up in the morning was that God was going to move in the people they hated. I am sure their thought was “Why is Jesus taking us this way?”. Maybe they had some fear as they knew it was a hostile area for Jews. God always moves in unexpected ways. Expect the unexpected!

But there was an expectation on God’s part that is being ignored. Jesus came to the Jews not the Samaritans. Notice what John points out...

John 4:43-45

Now after the two days He departed from there and went to Galilee. 44 For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. 45 So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they also had gone to the feast.

Jesus points out a truth that He has pointed out when He went to Nazareth. But in this context, He is speaking of all of Judea. The very people He came to save have rejected Him. The hardest people to reach are those that know us best. Or should I say knew us at our worst. Remember what those from His hometown said about Him...

Mark 6:1-3

Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, “Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?” So they were offended at Him.

My family and old homeboys would say, “Oh, he found Jesus now, did he!” It will pass just like Buddha, Castenada, Wiccan and all the other stuff he was into. Just give it time, he will be back at his habits! But often times it will be the most unexpected person that will hear your story and decide to put their trust in the same God you do. Judea would not accept Him, but the Samaritans did.

Now it does say that the Galileans received Him but notice who is the one that actually comes to Him...

The Nobleman's Son

John 4:46-54

Now we are not to get this confused with the Centurian in Matthew and Luke. It may seem similar but a different event. What is similar is this was not a Jewish person. A Nobleman was an officer of a king. The Jews were under Roman rule, and this title was never used for any of the Jewish leadership only Roman envoys. Imagine coming out of a great revival in an unexpected area and coming to, what the disciples would think, was ripe territory. But instead of the countrymen running to Jesus, it's a gentile nobleman! This is why Jesus says what He says. The Samaritans believed on just the word of the Woman but here is the very Messiah of the Jews and the only one to come is a stranger. Notice that all Jesus tells the man is your son lives. He is a day's journey away from Capernaum and he just goes on and believes. It's funny because when he gets there, he wants to make sure it wasn't just a coincidence as he asks the servant when it happened. But the outcome is that he and all his household believed.

One of the lessons that John wants us to learn in his gospel is that no one is out of the reach of God. When Jesus says 'Whosoever' He meant it.

And we need to remember that some of the least likely people will receive the message...

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.

But what about those that He came for that should have received His message? He would later condemn these cities for their unbelief...

Matthew 11:22-24

“But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you.”

One of the places that we will go see when we go to Israel is Capernaum. It is a desolation and just a place for tourists to come and look at what was.

What should be our response to all this? What John pointed out at the beginning of his gospel...

John 1:10-13

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

We share the message and God does the saving. We have some work to do let's get going!