



John Chapter 4:31-38

Sermon – Saved by the Well – Part 5

Background: We have been studying the story about the Samaritan woman who Jesus meets at Jacob's well. What we have seen is that God has a plan for our life even if we are jacked up, messed up, in a desperate situation, Jesus still looks for broken people to do a great work.

She goes through a four step process that every believer and every church must go through to be equipped to do a great work for the Kingdom. After she meets Jesus, she has new hope, new power, and a testimony that saves a town.

Something about this story will give hope to people who have tried and failed all their lives. Something about this story tells you the process for stepping into your best season ever. Something about this story qualifies the unqualified and disqualified for greatness.

This part of the story deals with the role of church folks in the Kingdom.

John 4:31-38

³¹In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." ³²But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." ³³Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?"

³⁴Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."

Disciples are urging him to eat. Nothing wrong with that. It is a necessary thing. What the disciples are doing and how they are ministering to Jesus is proper and okay.

Jesus however, starts to speak toward spiritual perspectives. The Spirit always takes priority over the flesh. That should be our goal.

Jesus tells them he already has food that satisfies. They are not aware of what he is talking about because Jesus is speaking from a spiritual perspective.

- The disciples are confused because they are still looking at this in the natural. They are wondering in the natural, who gave him something to eat because they can't physically see it.

Verse 34 – Jesus explains the type of spiritual food and nourishment that is satisfying to him. He has taken what the disciples understand in the natural to explain the spiritual. Let's see if we can follow along.

- Food serves to satisfy a need. When I am hungry, in need, food is what I desire to satisfy that need.
- Food not only satisfies my desire, it provides nourishment, eliminates hunger and provides strength.
- If food in the natural has these benefits, we can better understand what Jesus is trying to teach.
- What satisfies Jesus, what meets his needs and provides benefits is doing the will of God and finishing that work.
 - Doing the will of God is satisfying. While natural food is important and necessary, it is not as important or as satisfying as spiritual food.
- Now our challenge is to find out what the will of God is. If we can determine what the will of God is for us, then we can take part in finishing it and be fulfilled.

What is this work which is in alignment with God's will?

³⁵Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!

Verse 35 – Jesus immediately starts talking about harvesting crops which is associated with farming. Since the disciples are still trying to figure out what he is talking about, Jesus gives them a natural example or sort of a parable to help them understand a spiritual truth.

Don't say there are still four months before harvest time. So in the natural, before I can harvest anything, I have to go through a process.

- First, you have to have the ground broken up.
 - In the spiritual, the first step is having a humble and broken heart toward God.
- Second, you have to put the seed in the ground and bury it.
 - In the spiritual, the attitude you used to have, your past hurt, failures, sins and trusting in yourself is crucified with Christ and buried. The old you is gone.
- Next, you see new growth coming out of the seed that was buried.
 - The spiritual application is we have a new hope, a new way of thinking, a new attitude and a new life with Jesus Christ in us and we get lifted up from our past.
- Fourth step, you water the crops to get moisture to the roots which helps the plants to grow.
 - The spiritual application is after we are baptized into Christ and start our new walk, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is the "living water" Jesus describes which gives us power to grow.

These are the basic steps but there are several other steps you have to do to prepare the crops before you can enjoy the harvest in the natural. But Jesus explains in the spiritual, you don't have to wait until the end of the process to enjoy the harvest.

- Don't say you have to wait after planting, the spiritual harvest is ready now. In the natural, you may have to wait for the manifestation before you can enjoy and reap a harvest. But in the spiritual, you don't have to wait, you can reap now. You can collect it now.



He tells them to behold or look up and see that the harvest is in front of them.

So Jesus uses the natural example to explain that the work of God is the saving of souls...this is the will of God.

³⁶And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. ³⁷For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors."

Verse 36 – There is a reward for working in God's fields and harvesting souls. Jesus tells his disciples, if you can reap a spiritual harvest, you are not only securing an everlasting reward for yourself, but also helping others to secure everlasting life. How satisfying is that!

Jesus explains another spiritual principle, the people who plant get the same reward and can rejoice with the people who reap or gather the harvest. Oh, Jesus just said something here. Did you catch it?

- Folks who follow the first four steps and can lead others through that process, can rejoice and share in the rewards even if they don't see the end harvest.
- Doing God's will is a team effort. Some members' plant seeds and others train up, mentor and help them to maturity.
- Some people get others saved, while others teach them how to live for Christ.
- The whole team rejoices and shares in the harvest.

Verse 38 – If Jesus sent them to complete and build upon what has already been planted, what has been planted already? If Jesus sent the disciples to finish a work that others had started, what is that work?

- Abraham put that work in; we get to finish it.
- Joseph was jobbing; we get to share in that job.
- Moses was grinding; we get to grind with him.
- The prophets preached His coming; we get to share in His return.
- Jesus did a great work; he said we would do a greater work.

In our story, just a few moments before the disciples arrived to bring Jesus food, there is a lowly and rejected, down on her luck Samaritan woman in the area. She meets Jesus and has a life changing experience walking through the same four harvest steps. Jesus sows a spiritual seed and by that well (Jacob's Well) she is saved. Immediately she goes out and puts in that work.

The woman doesn't stay at the well, she moves to share her faith. She is finishing what Jesus started in her, by starting it with somebody else. She is putting in that work. We get to share in her work.

The disciples are going to look up and see the harvest coming from all these Samaritans that are ready to be saved because the woman is putting that work in. She didn't wait four months or four hours.

What is Jesus telling us today through this story?

- We don't need to wait, we can start now.
- If we have gone through the first four steps, then we have the power to start today. The fields are ripe today.
- You might have to wait in the natural for the harvest to be ready. You might need to wait for the end of the growing season to enjoy the fruit. But in the spiritual realm, Jesus says you can get ready to be filled and enjoy some benefits right now.
 - Victory, right now
 - Joy, right now
 - Hope, right now
 - Ministry, right now
 - Just because you can't see it now in the natural, doesn't mean you can't enjoy it in the spiritual in advance....right now.
- There is a work to be done and a work to be finished right now. That work is leading others to Jesus. Some of us need to start something and some will be finishing. But this is the will of God.
- If it is fulfilling to Jesus, if it satisfies Him, then we need to get that kind of satisfaction.
- God is a good boss, we get paid for this. I don't know about you, but I'm trying to get paid.

Jesus said to look at the fields. If I played football, I might to be in the backfield; if I played baseball I might want to be on the infield but I need somebody also in the outfield. If I'm hunting, I want to be on a good greenfield. If I was Kevin Costner, I might be on the Field of Dreams. But I'm trying to do the will of God and finish the work so may I be found..."On the battlefield for my Lord....I'm on the battlefield..."

Ended the sermon with that congregational song (On the Battlefield).

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