

“Reaching Others For Christ”

John 4:27-42

Message by Michael J. Barnard

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Teaching Aim: To see how focused Jesus was on doing the will of His Father as He ministered. To recognize how important it is for us to focus on the will of God as we minister to others in the name of Jesus today. To understand, the harvest is truly plentiful but the laborers are few; not only should we be serving in ministry ourselves, we should also be praying that the Lord of the harvest will send more laborers into His field.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work (John 4:27-34)

1. Orthodox Jews would often travel around Samaria by going to the eastern side of the Jordan River so that they would not step foot on Samaritan territory. Why does **John 4:4** in the KJV say, “*And he must needs go through Samaria?*” Have you ever had a divine appointment with someone? If so, how did God use it?

2. What kind of water was Jesus teaching the Samaritan woman about at the well? (See **John 4:13-15**) Was He ultimately referring to physical water or spiritual life? Why was it important for Jesus to confront this woman about her sin (**vv. 16-19**)? Is it important that we still address the issue of sin with unbelievers today? Why or why not? (See **Rom. 3:23; 5:8-9; 6:23; Acts 16:31**)

3. What did Jesus teach about “*true worship*” in **verses 19-24**? What did Jesus mean when He said in **verse 24**, “*God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth?*” What unexpected confession did Jesus make to the woman in **verses 25-26**? What made His openness so unusual? (See Commentaries)

4. It was at this point in the conversation that the disciples returned with the food they had purchased in Sychar (**vs. 27**). What caught them by surprise? Why was this unusual? Note: We can learn a lot about Jesus from this chapter, He was not prejudice against the Samaritans like so many of the Jews were. There is a lesson for us today, as Christians, we should not be prejudice against people of other races or nationalities.

5. What did the woman do upon the disciples return to Jesus (**vs. 28**)? Jesus had initially asked the woman for a drink of water. What item did she leave behind in **verse 28**? The waterpot was essential to survival in the hot and dry climate; her action seemed to indicate that she had every intention of coming back before they departed for Galilee.

6. Many speculate that the Samaritan woman was an outcast in town and that is the reason she came for her water at noon instead of when the rest of the women would come. Jesus revealed she had previously been married five times and was now living with a man out of wedlock. Perhaps the reason she was so unpopular with the women was because she was so popular with the men. What did this woman do as soon as she returned at Sychar (**vs. 29**)?

7. Were you excited to tell others about Jesus after you first became a believer in Him? Are you still as excited about Jesus as you were when you first came to faith? Why or why not?

8. How effective was the woman's testimony at bringing the people of Sychar to Jesus (**vs. 30**)? Interestingly enough, the twelve disciples were just in Sychar. Did the twelve try to bring the people to Christ or did they just go into town to get the food and leave? Are we guilty of doing the same in our own lives? Why don't we share more often with others about Jesus?

9. What was the focus of the disciples when they returned from Sychar (**vs. 31**)? Note: Apparently, the disciples noticed that Jesus was occupied on other things. What had Jesus been focusing on? Have you ever gotten so involved in something important to you that you forgot to eat? Is your faith that important to you?

10. What did Jesus mean in **verse 32** when He said, "*I have food to eat of which you do not know?*" Was Jesus talking about physical food or spiritual food? When Jesus spoke to Nicodemus about being born again, Nicodemus thought He was talking about physical birth. When Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well about water that springs up to everlasting life, she thought that He was talking about some kind of physical water. What did the disciples think Jesus was speaking of in **verse 33**? Note: In each case they thought Jesus was talking about the physical when in fact he was talking about spiritual things.

11. According to **verse 34**, what nourished Jesus? What spiritual truth can we learn in **Deut. 8:3**? Where else did Jesus use this verse in the New Testament? (See **Matt. 4:4; Luke 4:4**) Why is it important that we don't live on bread alone, but every word that proceeds from the mouth of God?

12. Jesus is different from any other person who has ever lived; He has two natures not one. Jesus is fully God and fully man. In His human nature Jesus was dependent upon God the Father for everything. What can we learn about this dependence from the following verses? (See **John 5:30; 6:38-40; 8:26; 9:4-5; 12:49-50; 14:31; 15:9-10; 17:4-5**)

Part II: The harvest is truly plentiful, but the laborers are few (John 4:35-38)

1. By the time we come to **verse 35**, lots of people were on their way from Sychar to the well where Jesus was. What illustration did Jesus use to describe the crowd as they came in His direction (**vs. 35**)? Note: Once again, Jesus (The "*Didaskalos*") used nature to drive home a spiritual point. Note: "*The Didaskalos*" means "*The Master Teacher*."

2. God designed Christian ministry to be a team effort; a team effort is always better than one person trying to do everything by himself or herself. Why is a jigsaw puzzle a good illustration of this? What can we learn about the team effort required in the local church from **1 Cor. 12:20-27**? According to **verses 36-37**, what can the sower and the reaper know with certainty? What are you doing to serve in the local church?

3. The most fruitful ministry in any church is its Children's Ministry. What can we learn from the following Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) statistics which reveal the ages at which people become Christians? (0-4=1% / 4-14=85% / 15-30=10% / 30+=4%)

4. What did the disciples learn in **verse 38**? Who were some of the others who had labored to reach the Samaritans before the disciples came? What are some ways that we are building on the work of others today?

Part III: We know that this indeed is the Christ, the Savior of the World (John 4:39-42)

1. What happened in the town as a result of the woman's testimony? Personal testimonies are one of the most effective ways for us to minister today. Have you sat down and wrote out your own story; how you came to Christ and the changes that have occurred since? If not, why not do so this week? This will help prepare you for when opportunity arises.
2. The Jewish religious leaders didn't want anything to do with Jesus. How did their attitude contrast that of the despised Samaritans at Sychar (**vs. 40**)? How did Jesus respond to the request from the people at Sychar? What do you think Jesus was doing while there?
3. While the Jews were waiting for their Messiah to be a political figure able to overthrow the Romans, the Samaritans were looking for a teacher. The Samaritans accepted only the first five books of the Bible (the Pentateuch) as Scripture. What can we learn about the Samaritan view of the coming Messiah from **Deut. 18:15-16, 18-19**?
4. What happened in Sychar as a result of the time Jesus spent with them (**vs. 41**)? In **John 4:28-29**, the Samaritan woman first shared her testimony with the residents of Sychar, now in **verse 42** the residents share their testimony back to her. What did the residents of Sychar realize in **verse 42**? This is one of only two times in the New Testament where Jesus is called "*the Savior of the world*;" the other is **1 John 4:14**. Why is it important that it was the Samaritans who revealed this? How should we live out this truth in our lives today?
5. Have you discovered your spiritual gifts yet? If so, what are they and how are you using them in ministry?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- The Samaritan woman at the well had her life radically transformed by meeting Jesus.
- Even this sexually immoral person, despised from the world's perspective, could be transformed and used by Jesus to reach a village for Him.
- Today, each of us should regularly invite people to come and meet Jesus.
- The spiritual food of Jesus was to do the will of the Father who sent Him. (See **John 4:34**)
- As Christians, we should find fulfillment as we minister and serve others.
- Today we are surrounded by a spiritual harvest that is ready to be harvested; the question is, when will we be obedient to the Lord and go out to work the field that is our community?
- Ministry takes a team effort; everyone has a part in reaching our community for Christ.
- Jesus is not only the Messiah of the Jews, He is Savior to anyone in the world who puts their trust in Him.