

## Reaping A Harvest for Eternity!

John 4.27-42

Jesus told the Samaritan woman that if she knew who He was, He could give her eternal life, then told her He was the promised Messiah. At this moment, her world is changed. She transforms from a lost sinner into an evangelist, and Jesus teaches a truth about reaping a harvest for eternity.

- “Come, see a man...!” – When you can’t keep silent (27-30)

*Have you lost your first love?*

- “White for harvest!” – An unexpected crop (31-38)

*Do you see the harvest all around you?*

- “Many more believed.” – The good news spreads (39-42)

*This One is indeed the Savior of the world!*



1. In John 4.1-26, Jesus walks the Samaritan woman from a life going nowhere, knowing nothing about eternal life or who He was, to the place of recognizing her spiritual need, and that He was the answer to it! Look back over other encounters in John’s Gospel where Jesus has led people to believe in Him: Nathanael (1.45-49), the disciples at the wedding at Cana (2.11), residents of Jerusalem after cleansing the temple (2.23), and His dialogue with Nicodemus (3.1-15; see Jn. 7.50-52 and 19.39). What is the main issue in each encounter? How does Jesus cater His presentation to fit each situation? How does He ‘sidestep’ divisive issues and keep the focus on Himself?
2. Since Jesus’ conversation with the woman at the well began after the disciples had left to buy food in town (4.8), their first knowledge of it was when they returned (v27). Why were they amazed that Jesus would talk to her? Why do you think they didn’t ask Him about it?
3. There is an implicit theme in verses 28-30: The woman leaves her unfilled waterpot behind – her physical need no longer is the most important thing to her, because her spiritual need has been met! Her ‘well’ overflows, and she runs to Sychar, a town which has brought her little joy, to share news of great joy with them! Have you ever had good news you just *had* to tell someone? How did you do it? Can you remember feeling that way about coming to know Jesus?
4. John 4.31-38 is Jesus’ “teaching time” with His disciples. They had just come from town, where they bought physical food, but they had said nothing about Him. In contrast, a woman who was an outcast in society was about to ‘reap a harvest’ of souls for eternity! What was Jesus “food”? What are the “wages” those who ‘sow’ and those who ‘reap’ a spiritual harvest will receive? When will they receive them?
5. The way the gospel spreads is progressive. John 4.39-42 details this for us. What led to the first ‘harvest’ of Samaritans believers? Why did many more come to believe? When have you been a ‘sower’ of the gospel? When have you ‘entered into the labor’ of someone else and been a ‘harvester’ of souls for eternity?

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