

JOHN 4:27-54

REVIEW...

- **JOHN 4:4-26 - LIVING WATER...**
 - Jesus had to go through Samaria - stopped and asked a woman to give Him some water...
 - When she balked at His request - He told her about Living water...
 - The 'things of this world' never satisfy - only God can really 'quench our thirst'!
 - The woman demanded Jesus give her this water...
 - He told her to get her husband - she said she had none - in reality she had 6!
 - Jesus showed her how 'thirsty' she was - trying to be satisfied by relationships...
 - The Samaritan woman answered - I know the Messiah is coming - 'I am He'...

TIME FOR THE HARVEST... (3 THINGS)

- **1ST - THE HARVEST IS RIPE... VS. 27, 31-38 (4 THINGS)**
 - 1ST - The disciples returned from getting food in the city... vs. 27
 - They were AMAZED to see Jesus talking to the Samaritan woman - but said nothing...
 - They did not care what the conversation was about - that did not matter to them...
 - According to 'Jewish tradition' you did not talk to woman in public - even our wife!
 - Yet here was Jesus talking not only to a woman - but a Samaritan!
 - **Unbelievers are not going to come to church and 'ask' us about Jesus...**
 - **So it is our responsibility to go to them - reach them where they are!**
 - **If they are hanging out at the store - we can go hang out with them...**
 - **If they are wandering around the plaza - wander with them...**
 - **But when we step out to share Jesus with sinners - it will get people talking...**
 - At the arrival of the disciples - the woman left and went into the city...
 - I am sure the disciples gave her 'looks' - perhaps whispering to each other...
 - She likely felt the uncomfortable at their obvious contempt - so left...
 - **People know when you look down on them - are judgmental of them...**
 - **Jesus was holier than anyone - yet He sat down and ate with sinners - Mark 2:16...**
 - **In order to reach people with the Gospel - we need to 'sit down' and love them!**
 - 2ND - The disciples quickly changed the subject - and urged Jesus to eat... vs. 31-34
 - Jesus was hungry - and had sent them into the city to buy food - but He would not eat...
 - The disciples had made a HUGE mistake - and Jesus needed to correct it...
 - **Making mistakes is part of growing in our Christian walk - they are not a surprise...**
 - **In the same way we learned not to touch a flame - because we got burned...**
 - **God uses our mistakes as - 'teachable moments' - so we learn from them...**
 - Jesus told them - I have 'better food' to eat than what you brought...
 - The disciples began to ask one another - 'did anyone bring Him food'...
 - Jesus told them - 'My food is to FINISH the work of the One who sent Me...'
 - **The work Jesus had been sent to do was to save sinners...**
 - **Luke 19:10 - "The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."**
 - **And Jesus would finish THE work on the cross - when He paid the price for sin...**
 - **Where He cried out the conclusion - 'It is Finished!' - John 19:30**
 - 3RD - Do not say the Harvest is far off... vs. 35

- The harvest is the world - the multitudes of people who are ready to hear the Gospel...
 - The problem is there is a lack of laborers - not enough people to go and share...
 - Imagine having 10,000 hectares of ripe sugarcane - ready for harvest - but only 5 men...
 - The potential reward is incredible - but not nearly enough labor to harvest it all...
 - The world is ripe - the hunger for the Good News is everywhere - but who will go...
 - Jesus said 'pray' - the Lord of the Harvest will send out more laborers - **Luke 10:2...**
 - Pray for Jesus to send others - NO - pray so that Jesus can send us!
 - **Isaiah 6:8** - "I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: 'Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.'"
- But the disciples assumed there was nothing to 'harvest' in Samaria...
 - They were looking 'far off' to when they would arrive in the Galilee...
 - We often make the mistake of overlooking the opportunities in front of us...
 - In the market buying rice / or riding in a packed tricycle back home...
 - We are so focused where we are going - we forget about the harvest in front of us...
- Jesus was quick to correct them - look up - the harvest is already ripe for the picking!
 - Peter and John were going to the Temple to pray - **Acts 3:1**
 - They passed by the same beggar who had been lying at the gate for years...
 - But as the beggar looked up - Peter saw what he had missed - the Harvest!
 - Do not miss any opportunity to share Jesus - look up and see the Harvest...
 - We think about Jesus in church - but it is the everyday people that need to hear!
- 4th - I am sending you into the Harvest... vs. 36-38
 - And he who reaps receives wages - the fruit of eternal life...
 - Jesus was willing to 'work in the field' right where they were in Samaria...
 - As a result the Samaritan woman had received Jesus as the Messiah...
 - If we step out in our daily life and share the Gospel - FRUIT - people will get saved!
 - People are ready to hear - people need to know about the finished work of Jesus...
 - When our neighbor has a fight with his wife - go and tell them about Jesus!
 - When the woman at the store tells you about problems with her kids - Jesus!
 - We are walking through harvest ripe for picking - time to get to work!
 - One man sows - but another man reaps...
 - In the campo - one person might plant the potdan / abuno / hilamon...
 - But another person might come along who was not part of planting...
 - And tapas-carga - they would be the ones bring in the harvest...
 - Jesus was sending the disciples out to 'reap' where they had not 'sown'...
 - I have to imagine as Jesus said this - the crowds came into view...
 - The multitudes coming from the Samaritan city of Sychar - wanting to see Jesus...
 - The disciples had done none of the work - but were about to reap the Harvest!
 - Perhaps you share the Gospel with someone - but they do not get saved...
 - You 'planted' the seed - but it was not the right time for the fruit to grow...
 - Someone else comes and encourages that person in Jesus - abuno / hilamon...
 - A completely different person tells them about Jesus - tapas-carga - salvation!
 - **I Corinthians 3:6** - "[One] planted, [another] watered, but God gave the increase."
 - You never know how God will use you - plant / water / or harvest...
 - The important thing is to always be ready to share - the Good News of Jesus!
- 2ND - REAPING THE HARVEST... vs. 28-30, 39-42 (2 GROUPS)

- o 1st - Many of the Samaritans believed because of the word of the Woman... vs. 39-40
 - When she left Jesus she went and told everyone about her conversation...
 - Jesus had seemed to know all about her - 'told her all that she every did...'
 - She was likely well known in the city for her 'many' husbands' and 'loose living'...
 - But how could Jesus - a stranger - a Jew - know all about her life!
 - One very exciting possibility - 'He might be the Christ - the promised Savior!'
 - One life touched by Jesus - touched countless others...
 - When you plant a seed - you do not expect to just get 'one piece of fruit'...
 - You plant a seed in the hopes of seeing 'abundant fruit' as your reward...
 - When you share Jesus with one person - you touch countless lives...
 - Their family sees the difference in their lives - and start coming to church...
 - Their friends begin to ask questions - and end up getting saved!
- o 2nd - Many more believed because they heard Jesus... vs. 41-42
 - They encouraged Jesus to stay with them - and He spent two days there...
 - As a result they all had the opportunity to hear Jesus WORD for themselves...
 - As a result there was no doubt - they KNEW He was INDEED the Christ...
 - Talking about Jesus - allows others to meet Jesus personally...
 - One person gets saved - and before you know it - family and friends follow...
 - There is a stir - people coming to church - and it makes others curious...
 - More and more people start to come - they hear the WORD - **Romans 10:17**
 - Because now they have heard the Word of God - you have a revival!
 - All because someone was willing to look up and see the Harvest!
- 3RD - **THE CHALLENGES OF THE HARVEST... VS. 43-54 (3 THINGS)**
 - o 1st - Those who knew us before Jesus... vs. 43-44
 - Jesus passed by Nazareth - and returned to the Galilee...
 - Nazareth is between Sychar and the Galilee - but Jesus did not stop there...
 - Because a prophet is not without honor - except in His own country...
 - In Nazareth they knew Jesus and his family - they had seen Him grow up...
 - So they could not accept that He was the Christ - the savior of the world...
 - A godly man is respected – except in his 'home town'...
 - It is always interesting for me to return to my hometown...
 - I have been a pastor for over 10 years – traveled to more than 30 countries...
 - But in my hometown I am still the little boy who always got into trouble...
 - The problem is that they saw me grow up – they know who David was...
 - What people so often do not want to see – is who God has made us to be!
 - The hardest people to reach – are your family and friends...
 - The problem is they know you to well – your mistakes / flaws / and sins...
 - When we share Jesus with them – they are quick to remind us of them all!
 - What they miss is that all that we were is gone – **Psalms 103:12**
 - We are no longer defined by our past/mistakes – instead by Jesus who is in us!
 - **II Corinthians 5:17** – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”
 - Do not give up on your family and friends – they might give you a hard time...

- But in due time – as they see Jesus in you – they might just ask what happened...
 - Then you can give them the same hope that God has given to you!
- o 2nd - Those with an ulterior motives... vs. 45-48
- When Jesus arrived in Galilee - they gladly received Him...
 - They had been at the Passover festival - and seen the miracles of Jesus - **John 2:23**
 - From there he went to Cana - where He had turned water into wine...
 - While there a certain nobleman from Capernaum came to see Jesus...
 - He begged/pleaded with Him to come quickly and heal his dying son...
 - Jesus reputation had quickly spread - and this man wanted His help!
 - But he was not interested in the Gospel message - forgiveness of his sins...
 - He was only after what Jesus could do for him now - getting what he wanted...
 - There are many people who only 'look to Jesus' to see what they can get...
 - They are only interested in what Jesus can give to them here and now...
 - They are looking for money / food / physical healing - not for eternal life!
 - Jesus replied - 'unless you see signs - you refuse to believe'...
 - The idea is - unless they got what they wanted - they would not listen to Jesus...
 - The message of the Gospel of Jesus is not about what we can get in this life...
 - God does not promise us wealth in this world – He promises us eternal wealth!
 - So if we are we only hanging around to see what we can get from the Lord...
 - Thinking that we can profit from God – what happens when we find we cannot...
- o 3rd - Loving in spite of ulterior motives... vs. 49-54
- Jesus told them man - go home - your son lives...
 - The man believed - and when he arrived back in Capernaum - his son was better...
 - He asked when his son began to recover - they told him the evening before...
 - He knew it was at the exact same time Jesus told him his son lived...
 - As a result he - and his whole house - believed in Jesus!
 - Just because someone has ulterior motive - does not mean we do not help...
 - So if someone is hanging around - and we know they have ulterior motives...
 - Love them anyways - help them in any way you reasonably can...
 - You never know - there might still be a Harvest there after all!