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 baulked at His request - He told her about Living water...
    - The 'things of this world' never satisfy - only God wan 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 an 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 that 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 from 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 where 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!

o 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 Samarian 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*)**

- 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!
- 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*)**
  - 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!
- 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 an 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...
- 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!