

JOHN 4:27-42
PHYSICAL OR SPIRITUAL?

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 4 as we continue our in-depth study of the Gospel of John.

Let me give you a quick re-cap of this chapter because it will help us to understand what is taking place in our study this morning.

As the chapter opens up, we see Jesus and His men leaving Jerusalem and heading to Galilee. And we are told that Jesus “**needed**” to go through Samaria.

Please understand that Jews avoided Samaria because they did not want to associate themselves with the Samaritans. In their minds they were half-breads and not Jews. So they would go around Samaria.

But Jesus said that He needed to go through Samaria and the reason for this was that there was a woman there in Samaria who He needed to see.

Now for Jesus to go through Samaria and then talk to this woman who came to the well in Samaria to gather some water was not kosher! That is not what was usually done and yet, Jesus had an appointment, you might say, with this woman at the well in Samaria.

As they meet, Jesus asks her for a drink of water, and she is blown away that a Jew would speak to a Samaritan woman!

And Jesus says that He can give to her living water, and in her mind, she is thinking physical water. The problem was that Jesus had nothing to gather this water from the well with and she confronts Him on that.

And He speaks to her about the living water that He has for her and that she will never thirst again if she drinks of this water. He is speaking spiritual, of course.

As the conversation continues, she comes to believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

What about the disciples of Jesus? What happened to them?

We are told in John 4:8, **“For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.”**

Keep this in mind. This woman went from thinking physical water to the living water, Jesus Christ. She was seeing things from a spiritual perspective.

But the disciples of Jesus, they are focused on the physical, *“We need food. Let’s go into the city and buy some food. I am hungry! There is a good Chicago Style hotdog stand there!”*

Okay, not kosher but now you know what I long for!

Now, as we will see, Jesus is going to work on His men to see with spiritual eyes and not just physical eyes!

And let’s face it. We can lose sight of what is really going on and we need help from the Lord so that we can see again.

Let me share this with you and you will see what I mean about losing perspective and how we can gain that perspective back with the help of another.

We are told,

A man went to see his doctor in an acute state of anxiety.

“Doctor,” he said, “you have to help me. I’m dying. Everywhere I touch it hurts. I touch my head and it hurts. I touch my leg and it hurts. I touch my stomach and it hurts. I touch my chest and it hurts. You have to help me, Doc, everything hurts.”

The doctor gave him a complete examination. “Mr. Smith,” he said, “I have good news and bad news for you. The good news is you are not dying. The bad news is you have a broken finger.”

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I know, I hear the groans. But think about that for a minute. How many times do we look at life’s situations through physical eyes and we become confused, anxious, worried, upset, frustrated, and the list can go on!

But once we take our eyes off the physical and place them on the spiritual, God brings us comfort, He gives us direction, He encourages us, He gives us His peace, and we can relax and so much more!

That is what Paul said in Colossians 3:1-4. He wrote, **“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things of the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”**

Where are you focused this morning? Is it on self? Is it upon situations in your life? Or is it upon Christ and what He has for you?

I have called our study this morning – ***PHYSICAL OR SPIRITUAL?***

And I have broken down the verses we will be looking at into several points and they are as follows:

THE DISCIPLES – JOHN 4:27

THE SAMARITAN WOMAN – JOHN 4:28-30

PHYSICAL FOCUS – JOHN 4:31

JESUS CORRECTS – JOHN 4:32

STILL SEEING WITH PHYSICAL EYES – JOHN 4:33

JESUS REFOCUSES THEM – JOHN 4:34-38

THE FRUIT OF A SPIRITUAL LIFE – JOHN 4:39-42

So with that as our introduction, let's begin reading in John chapter 4, beginning in verse 27 and let's see what the Lord has for us this morning as we study His Word and we look at this topic – ***PHYSICAL OR SPIRITUAL?***

JOHN 4

VERSE 27

Look at what is going on here. The disciples of Jesus went out to buy some food, they were hungry. As they return, they see Jesus speaking to a woman and not just a woman but a Samaritan woman.

This was such a unkosher thing to do that a Jewish Rabbi would rather go thirsty than to have a woman, a Samaritan woman give him something to drink!

You can imagine the shocked look on their faces as they were witnessing this. How could Jesus do something like that? Why would Jesus do something like that? I am sure that those thoughts and maybe many more were going through their minds.

Jesus came to save that which was lost, and this woman at the well in Samaria was lost and she needed the living waters of Jesus in her life. Thus, Jesus came to her. He was not a respecter of persons, and this was going to be a lesson for His disciples to learn!

You see, they were going to be the ones to bring the Gospel message, not only to Jews but to Gentiles as well. And they needed to learn from the Lord that it is not the nationality of the person, it is not this or that, it is the fact that they are lost and need a Savior and we have to have that same mentality as well. We will look at this more as we move on in our study this morning.

But notice how the disciples of Jesus responded to what they saw. We are told, “**...yet no one said, ‘What do You seek?’ or, ‘Why are You talking with her?’**”

In other words, they kept silent.

I do think that they were learning that Jesus knew better, even though at times they still thought that they did.

One writer put it like this. He wrote, “*Their silence was due to reverence. They had already learned that He had reasons for His actions which might not lie on the surface.*”

(Dods)

This is one that I continue to try and learn. God knows what He is doing and even though I may not understand it, even though I may not get how it is all going to work out, even though I think it may be the wrong way to handle this, it is not!

And I think I would be safe to say that we all deal with this issue from time to time. Trusting that God knows what He is telling us and then not only listening to what He is saying but then walking accordingly.

Let me share this with you. We are told in regard to the life of Solomon,
 . . . God had given Solomon incredible wisdom, massive amounts of wealth, and great fame. What He hadn't given Solomon was a thousand marriage licenses.

In fact, In Deuteronomy 17, God (in prophesying the fact that Israel would, in the future, demand a king to rule over them) specifically commanded that the king was not to take multiple wives. If he did, God said, his heart would be led astray.

And wouldn't you know it? That's exactly what happened to Solomon. In marrying multiple wives, and heathen wives at that (another direct violation of God's command), the very thing God said would happen to Solomon's heart happened:

“As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites . . . The Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the Lord's command.”

How sad. Solomon even ended up building a place of worship for Molech - the god to whom people sacrificed their own children.

How could Solomon - the wisest man who ever lived - have gone so far astray?

Simple. He neglected to follow the counsel God had given him, and it ended up ruining him and destroying his kingdom.

God knows what He's talking about. He doesn't ask us to do things or not do things for no reason. He has a very good reason for everything He requires.

Everything He “commands” is for our best good, to keep us from ruining ourselves and others.

Had Solomon followed God in this area of his life as well, who knows what might have happened? If only he had heeded the counsel of God given decades before he was even born!

It's dangerous to disregard God's counsel. Not because God is going to "get us" if we don't obey Him, but because His counsel is designed to keep us from doing things that will be detrimental to us.

Solomon may have thought it would be great to have a thousand wives . . . but in the end, it was his undoing. Just as God had prophesied it would be.

So, what has God been saying to you lately? Listen to Him. He knows what He's talking about!

- <https://bit.ly/3CCMXfm>

I think that is an important lesson for us to learn. God means what He says and says what He means, and we need to listen and obey.

Let me show you what I mean by the disciples not always getting it, that they at times thought they knew better than the Lord.

In Matthew 26:30-32 we are told, "**And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, 'All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.'**"

What is Jesus saying here? Who is going to stumble?

Jesus tells His men that all of them will stumble!

That is very clear, no room to wiggle out of that and yet, as much as Jesus warned them, listen to what the response is of one of them, and in reality, they all were thinking the same thing.

We are told in Matthew 26:33, "**Peter answered and said to Him, 'Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.'**"

Peter is telling Jesus that He is wrong. Yes, these other guys are not too strong, but he was Peter, the rock, and he was not going to deny Jesus no matter what.

Now I believe that Peter was very sincere here, but he was also wrong. Why was he wrong?

Because the Lord already told him that this was going to happen and yet, he refused to agree with the Lord but said, “**I will never be made to stumble.**” That is just pride and arrogance on Peter’s part, even though he was sincere, like I have said.

But Jesus does not give up. He goes on to say, “**. . . ‘Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.’**”

So now Peter gets it, and he understands that he will deny the Lord because that is what the Lord has told him, right? ***WRONG!***

He goes on to say, “**. . . ‘Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!’ And so said all the disciples.**”

So not only is Peter telling the Lord that He is wrong, but the other disciples have joined in and said the same thing!

As we read that we see how foolish they were and I think the Lord is saying to us, “***Look in the mirror because you do the same thing!***”

And it is one thing to know what God desires of us, but then we must take it a step further and obey Him. We can’t say, “***I know Lord, there are those who will fall into that sin, but not me. I am stronger than they are. I am good. Remember, I am a rock!***” That is a dangerous place to be when we think we know better than the Lord!

What we see here in John is that they were not going to challenge the Lord on this one because they knew He was always right. But it did not mean that they were in agreement with Him and that was wrong!

So we move now from the *DISCIPLES* of Jesus to *THE SAMARITAN WOMAN!* And look at her response to what Jesus had said to her.

VERSES 28-30

Keep in mind that the Samaritan woman was there with Jesus when His disciples came back. And the looks that they may have given her could have made her feel uneasy, maybe it was very awkward for her and thus, she leaves and goes back to her own town!

But I think there was more to it than that. I think she had seen the Messiah; she had come to that saving faith and now she could not just sit back and tell no one. She had to go and tell her people that the One that they have been waiting for had come and His name is Jesus!

What is interesting is that we are told she left her waterpot behind, she did not take it with her.

Isn't that the reason she came to that well there in Samaria, to get water?

Absolutely!

Then why did she leave her waterpot behind?

Remember that she came for physical water, but she left with something that will cause her to never thirst again, spiritually speaking. She had come to Jesus!

The water at the well would only satisfy for a time before she had to go back and get some more.

The water that Jesus gave to her, the living water, would last her a lifetime!

That which was important at one time was not as important as her relationship with the Lord and she wanted to tell the people in her hometown about Him!

Thus, she leaves the old life behind, the old wineskins you might say, and has come out of that way of life into a new life in Christ!

Paul put it this way in 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.**”

What I also want you to see here is that she felt comfortable with Jesus. Remember what Jesus said to this woman when she told Jesus that she had no husband, “**... ‘You have well said, “I have no husband,” for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.’**”

Now think about her lifestyle and all that Jesus could have said to her. He could have said, “*Look lady, you need to clean up your act if you want to get to heaven!*” But He didn’t say that!

And He could have easily put her down, but He didn’t because He loved her so much that He came to save her just as Jesus has done for all of us!

Yes, He exposed her sin, but He did so with love with the idea of restoring her and not destroying her!

She did not feel that Jesus hated her or was judging her or didn’t want her around. She left knowing that He loved her and cared for her.

When we interact with people how do they feel around us?

Do they feel like we are judging them?

Do they feel like we are just waiting for them to leave?

I hope not. That is not how Jesus dealt with people. He loved them and cared for them and so should we.

It's important for the followers of Jesus to give people today a safe place to confess their sin, repent, and put their trust in Jesus. We should be there to listen to their fears, their concerns, their problems so we can then minister the love of Jesus to them!

And like I have said, she then goes into town to tell the men of this town of the Messiah, Jesus, that He is here, come and see!

Why did she go to the men of the town? Maybe because the women hated her and her lifestyle, seeking after the men of the town for her pleasures and they wanted nothing to do with her. I think that is why she came to the well to get water in the heat of the day, no other women would be around to bother her.

The men on the other hand responded to her, but they are going to get more than they bargained for in return!

Notice what she tells the men of her city. **“Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?”**

She is inviting them to come and see if this is the One that they have been waiting for!

And when she told them that Jesus told her all the things that she had done, that was an important statement.

You see, *“The Jews believed that one essential characteristic of the Messiah would be, that he should be able to tell the secrets of all hearts. This they believed was predicted, Isaiah 11:2, 3.”* (Clarke)

And as much as the Jews believed this, I would think that many of the Samaritans did as well and thus, she tells them – ***COME AND SEE!***

And the response, “**Then they went out of the city and came to Him.**”

What a witness she was of what God can do in a person’s life, but they too had to see Jesus for themselves!

So we see the faith of *THE SAMARITAN WOMAN* and now we will go back and see what the disciples of Jesus were focused on, a – *PHYSICAL FOCUS!*

VERSE 31

Keep in mind that the disciples of Jesus went into the Samaritan village to get food and wanted Jesus to eat what they brought to Him.

And here we go again. The disciples are thinking physical food, and Jesus is speaking of spiritual food.

Now please understand that Jesus wasn’t saying that food and drink and rest are not important.

Instead, He wanted His disciples to know that life was more than those things; that man does not eat by bread alone.

What happens so often is we will spend more time on the physical things, and the spiritual things, not so much.

I think if you look at the average American today you can see that we do okay with food and drink, maybe not so well with rest.

But how much time do we spend with the Lord?

How much time do we spend serving the Lord?

How much time do we spend reading the Word of God?

How much time do we spend in church?

Let me share this with you and see how Covid has changed how people worship the Lord or go to church. This trend may not last, but it may. This is what we are told,

One-third of U.S. adults have watched religious services online or on television in the past month, and a little over half of them – or 18% of all adults – say they began doing this for the first time during the coronavirus pandemic.

Of course, if you're worshipping remotely, you can't hug the other members of your congregation or shake hands with your minister, priest, rabbi or imam. But you can wear whatever clothes you want, turn up (or down) the volume, forget about traffic in the parking lot, and easily check out that service you've heard about in a congregation across town or even across the country.

Whatever the reasons, lots of people like virtual worship.

Nine out of 10 Americans who have watched services online or on TV in the past month say they are either "very" satisfied (54%) or "somewhat" satisfied (37%) with the experience; just 8% say they are "not too" or "not at all" satisfied, according to a recent Pew Research Center survey conducted in mid-July.

So what does this bode for the future?

By the time the COVID-19 pandemic has finally run its course, will Americans have lost the habit of going in person to a church, synagogue, temple or mosque?

Some commentators have suggested that just as the pandemic has accelerated the trend toward shopping online and made Americans reliant on the internet for work, school, health and entertainment, so might many, if not all, varieties of religious experience move online in the 21st century.

Do you see the danger in that? I do!

We are to dwell together in unity not the Internet! And I do understand for those that are sick and can't come to church, this is very helpful for them, but I can tell you this. From those who are sick and can't come to church, they long to have that fellowship in church. They hate the fact that they can't come and worship together.

But many have found the experience at home and watching the service just as good and yet, it goes contrary to the Scriptures. They don't have to get dressed. They can grab their coffee and even watch the service from bed! But that is not what we are to do, it is not what the Scriptures teach us. It is good for brethren to dwell together in unity and if you want to divide a group of people, you separate them and that is what we see happening.

I will just give you a couple of verses here in Hebrews to show you what I mean. In Hebrews 10:24-25, **“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”**

The Amplified Bible puts these verses like this, **“And let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love and helpful deeds and noble activities, Not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together [as believers], as is the habit of some people, but admonishing (warning, urging, and encouraging) one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching.”**

You see, as we gather together we have that fellowship, we can sharpen each other's walk, we can stir each other up, we can help each other grow in the Lord, we can comfort and correct each other and so much more. May we not lose sight of what God wants for us.

It is so important to focus on the spiritual things because we do spend so much time on the physical.

The disciples of Jesus – ***PHYSICAL FOCUS!***

But now we see that – ***JESUS CORRECTS!***

VERSE 32

Now I am not going to spend a lot of time on this verse because I will cover it more when we get to John 4:34-38. But I want you to see that what Jesus is doing here is getting them to get their eyes off the physical food and onto the spiritual things!

They offered Him food, but He gave them instruction. I have food to eat that you know nothing about is another of His puzzling statements that He will expound on as I have said.

Once again it is important to listen as Jesus gets us to focus upward, upon Him instead of outward upon the physical things we see.

I am not saying that we are to ignore the physical world, we are not. But you will not be any earthly good until you are heavenly minded and thus, focus on the spiritual and God will lead you in the physical. And we will see Jesus do just that with His men!

What is interesting here is that as ***JESUS CORRECTS*** His men, they are – ***STILL SEEING WITH PHYSICAL EYES!***

VERSE 33

I have to laugh at that one. Jesus tells them, “... **I have food to eat of which you do not know.**” John 4:32.

And they are thinking, “*Who went to Culver’s and got Jesus a cheeseburger?*” I guess that would not be kosher either, so let’s say a fish sandwich!

You see, they are still thinking physical food. They did not get it yet. These are the guys that Jesus is preparing for the ministry when He is gone and they just don’t get it, not yet!

And you may be wondering why Jesus picked these guys in the first place! They don’t seem so bright.

As I thought about that I was reminded that I am no different. Jesus could have picked anyone else, and they probably could do the job far better than I could and yet He chose me, He chose you!

I love that about our Lord.

When I was in school, when you had to pick teams in gym class, I was the guy that everyone wanted on their team because I was fast. But then there were those guys who would get picked last, nobody wanted them.

Guys, the world does not want us, but Jesus does. We are the ones picked last on the world’s list and yet, the Lord picks us. That should give us great comfort because He knows what He is doing and it is not because we are so great, but because He is so great, and He wants to work in us so He can work through us and the work that we do for Him will bring Him glory!

So these disciples of Jesus are *STILL SEEING THROUGH PHYSICAL EYES* but the Lord is not giving up on them. We will see that as we read on, as – *JESUS REFOCUSES THEM!*

VERSES 34-38

Why are you here?

What is your purpose for living?

Many Christians have no idea and that is sad. Jesus knew exactly why He was here.

You see, Jesus came to complete the work that was set before Him and in that He found true satisfaction and so will we, doing what we were created for!

Thus, in Jesus' life we read in John 17:4, "**I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.**"

May we be able to say the same as our life comes to an end in these earthly bodies, that we have finished the work that God has given us to do!

If you don't know what God has for you, then get into His Word, read His Word and you will see that you are to be a light to a world that is in darkness, your mission is to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world. Everything else is really second to that!

Let me share with you this example.

We are told,

Historians say that John Knox, the great Scottish preacher, was so feeble as an old man that he had to balance himself on the pulpit. But as he began to preach, his voice, at first very weak, would regain the power of a trumpet call, and he was like "to ding the pulpit into glads [to knock the pulpit into splinters], and leap out of it!" The message completely filled the man with divine power, and he experienced supernatural sustenance. That is what happened with our Lord.

- R. Kent Hughes, John pp. 131-132

The experience of countless others through the centuries has proved Jesus true in this statement. There is nothing more satisfying than doing the work of God, whatever that is for the particular believer. Though this is counter-intuitive and against our natural self-seeking, it is true.

Spurgeon put it like this, *“The man of the world thinks that, if he could have his own way, he would be perfectly happy, and his dream of happiness in this state or in the next is comprised in this, that his own wishes will be gratified, his own longings fulfilled, his own desires granted to him. This is all a mistake. A man will never be happy in this way.”*

How true that is! Look at the life of Jesus and the great satisfaction He found as He was doing the will of God, even when He was weary, even when He was tired, and I believe we will find that same satisfaction as we do the will of God!

One writer put it like this. He wrote, *“The bodily thirst (and hunger probably, from the time of day) which our Lord had felt before, had been and was forgotten in the carrying on of His divine work in the soul of this Samaritan woman.”* (Alford)

And now, in John 4:35-38 Jesus wants His men to see the spiritual and not just the physical. Listen to what Jesus said in John 4:35, **“Do 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!”**

I love this verse because Jesus paints for us a beautiful picture of what the harvest is really about.

Let me show you this picture that Jesus was showing His men and us.

Keep in mind that it was December in Samaria and thus, the grain crops, being planted in November, were about a foot or so high and they were still green.

And Jesus tells His men that there are still four months until the harvest of the grain, which would bring us to the middle of April or so.

And as Jesus is speaking, He tells His men to lift up their eyes and take a good look at these grain fields.

Why? What was so important with those grain fields? There was still another four months until the harvest and thus, not much to see, not yet.

But there was and they needed to take a good look at those grain fields and look at them now with spiritual eyes that were open!

What does He mean by that?

Keep in mind that this woman that Jesus meet at the well in Samaria, the one that Jesus witnessed to, the one who was now saved, went back to get the men of the city to come and see that the Messiah has come, and His name is Jesus!

And as she told these men to come and see we are told in John 4:30, “**Then they went out of the city and came to Him.**” The way that this is written in the Greek is in the imperfect tense and what that means is this. You could translate that verse like this, they “*were coming to Him.*”

This is awesome. These men from Samaria were on their way, they were making their way to Jesus. And I believe that the timing here is perfect. As Jesus was speaking these words here in John 4:35, as Jesus told His disciples to take a good look at those grain fields, I believe these Samaritan men were coming through those grain fields!

You see, as these men walked through the grain fields wearing their white robes, it looked like the fields were ready for harvest, and they were!

The harvest of souls! What a picture!

Ray Stedman put it like this. He wrote,

H. V. Morton suggests that these people coming out of the city to meet Jesus, as the custom was in those times, were dressed in white robes.

Jesus called his disciples' attention to them: "Look at them. Look on the fields, already white unto the harvest."

Then he drew a parallel. In the natural life four months elapse between sowing and harvesting, but in the spiritual realm it can happen instantly.

Time is removed when you are dealing in the realm of the spirit. Though the order follows the same, the pattern is there, the time element is totally irrelevant. It can happen instantly, so that "the sower and the reaper can rejoice together."

When you are dealing with the things of God you can have a harvest almost instantly.

- <https://bit.ly/3l56e2Z>

And what a picture this is as these men that were coming were the harvest, the harvest of souls that were to be brought into the Kingdom of God.

How does this relate to us?

Are we looking for the harvest or are we just sitting around doing nothing?

Are we looking for the harvest or do we feel that this world is going to Hell and what is the use?

Jesus was encouraging His men here that there is a harvest that is ready now and I believe He is saying the same to us, be looking, watching and gather in what God has placed before you!

And in verses 36 through 38 we see that these disciples of Jesus did not do anything and yet look at the harvest they would bring in.

What is the point?

You see, it was this Samaritan woman who brought these men to Jesus! And I will deal more with that fruit as we close our study this morning with our last point.

But here is the thing we need to remember. We may sow the Word but not see the fruit from our labor, someone else may.

But it is not about us, but about the Lord and building up His Kingdom and not ours. Just rejoice that you can be a part of it, a part of the work.

Paul put it this way in I Corinthians 3:5-9, **“Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building.”**

The sower and the reaper should be able to rejoice in what God is doing!

I think most if not all of us believe that our time is short, that the Lord can come at any moment for His Bride, the Church.

Now, if we believe that, and like I have said, I believe we do, then let’s use the time we have to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jesus ***did not*** want His disciples to wait or procrastinate but to think and act as if the harvest was ready ***NOW!*** And I believe He is saying that to each of us as well!

I know, we do have excuses, like, ***“Maybe in four months I will go and witness!”***

Think about this. If farmers waited for the perfect weather to come, perfect conditions to plant their crops, they would never plant their crops. The time is ***NOW!*** Open your eyes and see the people that the Lord is bringing across your path and share with them.

So here we are, you may be in the fields of Manitowoc, Two Rivers, White Law, Newton, Cleveland, Valders, St. Nazianz, Francis Creek, Mishicot, Reedsville, and other places, do you believe that they are white for harvest?

I believe that Jesus is telling us, **“Do 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!”**

And yes, it does take faith and courage to sow the seed of faith, the Gospel message because the world is hostile to God and to His Son. But we must do it anyway, even if the conditions are not perfect, are not good, because the fields are ripe for harvest, people will be open because God is in the business of saving lives!

And think of it like this. Your field may be where you work, or maybe where you go to school. It could be your neighborhood. It doesn't matter, we are all in fields that are ready for harvest, we just need to look up, get our eyes off our phones, and look at the fields around us, because they are ripe for harvest!

So Jesus is getting them to refocus, to get their eyes off themselves, off their personal needs, and onto the spiritual, the things of God, saving souls!

And that leads us to our last point – ***THE FRUIT OF A SPIRITUAL LIFE!***

VERSES 39-42

Remember what we have seen with this woman at the well in Samaria.

We see that this woman saw Jesus first as a Jew, then she called Him Sir, then a prophet, then the Christ, the Savior of the world.

In other words, she got saved!

And what I like you to see is that her conviction of her sin led to her conversion, but that is not the end of it.

This led to evangelism as she tells others what she found.

And those from her city who came out and heard the words of Jesus, many believed.

They listened to the woman and then they saw for themselves as they too were saved!

Ray Stedman put it like this,

There is a wonderful lesson on the processes of spiritual growth.

Many come to Christ by believing the testimony of others. They see what God has done in another man's, or another woman's, life, they are affected by it and they believe.

But that is not the end of Christian growth.

When you come, there is a new level of personal experience. You believe because it happens to you as well.

After two days with Jesus the whole city was beginning to believe. Jesus had not experienced this among the Jews.

Here were these rag-tag Samaritans believing and responding, and Jesus is uplifted and strengthened by that.

The Samaritans move from merely believing him to be the Messiah come to do his political work, but that he was the "Savior of the world."

Anybody, anywhere, can come to him, the Savior, the Redeemer of the world.

I have always loved that old hymn of Philip Bliss,

“Man of Sorrows” what a name

For the Son of God who came

Ruined sinners to reclaim!

Hallelujah, what a Savior!

That was what was happening to these people in Sychar. They were discovering the fountain of water springing up in their own hearts - the forgiveness of God, the sense of peace, of joy, of love within - and they were saying with almost unbelieving tones, “We don’t need to hear the woman talk about it now; it has happened to us. He is the ‘Savior of the world.’”

- bit.ly/3l56e2Z

This is truly an amazing story.

You see, the Samaritans and the Jews did not get along but now look what has happened. They come to Christ and those walls of separation are torn down as the disciples of Jesus and the Samaritans hang out together with their Messiah!

This is so interesting to me. What we see here is the Samaritans coming to Christ when the Pharisees wanted a confrontation with Him!

We see that so often today with people who hold onto a religion instead of a Redeemer!

Those who hold onto a Sacrament rather than a Savior!

In saying that, what do you think of Jesus, is He your Savior? He needs to be!

One more point and I did touch on it, but I think I need to repeat myself here. The thing we see here is that Jesus stayed there in Samaria for another two days teaching them.

Again, we don't think much of it, but the Jews did not stay in Samaria and yet, they now welcomed this Jew, Jesus. And Jesus will stay where He is welcomed! May we not exclude people from our lives for any reason.

A powerful lesson that Jesus was teaching His men!

Let me share this with you and then I will expound on it. We are told,

Every animal on earth has a set of correspondences with the environment around it, and some of those correspondences far exceed ours.

Humans can perceive only 30 percent of the range of the sun's light and 1/70th of the spectrum of electromagnetic energy. Many animals exceed our abilities.

Bats detect insects by sonar; pigeons navigate by magnetic fields; bloodhounds perceive a world of smell unavailable to us.

Perhaps the spiritual or "unseen" world requires an inbuilt set of correspondences activated only through some sort of spiritual quickening.

"No one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above," said Jesus (John 3:3, NRSV).

"The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned," said Paul (1 Cor 2:14).

Both expressions point to a different level of correspondence available only to a person spiritually alive.

- Perfect Illustrations for Every Topic and Occasion

Every believer has the ability to hear from God and not only hear, but then obey what the Lord has called them to do!

But isn't it easy to get so focused on physical things?

Of course it is. Look at all that is going on around us. And we can be consumed with these things and in the end, what does it produce in our lives? Not fruit!

What we see many times is fear, frustration, anger, hopelessness.

But God is telling us to get refocused on Him and look up at the fields that are before you because He wants you out in those fields because the harvest is ready. There are people there who will get saved.

Think about this for a minute. Do you think any of the disciples were thinking that a Samaritan could get saved?

Of course not!

But it started with one person, this woman at the well in Samaria that Jesus was willing to talk to and share with, and it ended with the city of Sychar, a city of Samaria, that many of those people got saved!

I will close with this. This is what Jesus is saying to us this morning. **“Do 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!”** John 4:35.

May we lift up our eyes and look at the fields that God has placed before us because they are already white for harvest!