

Let's go to John 4 this morning
Here we find the familiar story of the Woman at the Well

Normally when I share from this passage I am talking about the fact that God is looking for people who will "Worship God in Spirit and in Truth"

(As opposed to those who have made worship all about technics and tradition and rules and denominations and other people's songs)

This morning I want to read what comes a few lines after this story

FIRST A VIDEO:

I want us to watch a couple of minutes of video from The Chosen – Woman At the well from 4:00 min to end

PLAY VIDEO

John 4: This woman at Jacob's well in Samaria was the first person, outside of the 12 who Jesus told that He was the Messiah

Verse 27 tells us that His disciples were dumbfounded

- Why was Jesus talking to a strange woman?
- Why would he be giving her information that had not been made public to the world?
- Why would he be even talking to a Samaritan woman
Certainly she was not worthy, She was a social outcast
A woman living in sin and laden with past sins
And woman who was living in a nightmare of rejection, shame and condemnation

Then his disciples tried to give Him something to eat: He gave them a strange answer:

- 31 Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something."
32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about."
33 Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?"
34 "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

I have food you don't know anything about
Doing the will of my Father is my nourishment, It energizes me, It fulfills me

And Something so satisfying has just happened Someone has just believed in me

And nothing can contain my joy Now she is going into town to tell people about me
Jesus was pumped

So now he turns to his disciples wanting them to understand the significance of the moment, Wanting them to understand the incredible satisfaction of seeing someone gathered into God's harvest.

- 35 Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

Open your eyes and look, It's harvest time! THE LONG TITLE TO THIS MESSAGE

36 Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.

The reapers are already out there receiving their wages
Gathering fruit for life eternal -- This is no time to eat – It's show time!

This meeting with this woman, at this time, was a divine encounter arranged for Jesus, by the Father

It was the kick off of the great ingathering
And it was a thrilling moment in the life of Jesus and in the history of the world

Two other things – Equally exciting and miraculous

Was the fact that this unworthy, outcast of a woman
Threw off her shame like a wet blanket
And came running out of her hiding
She Ran into town and began to tell everyone that she had seen the Messiah
And she was so convincing that the whole town came out to check it out

I have seen this so many times in my life
People coming to Jesus and instantly having their lives transformed

There's an old song called "Rolled Away" THE LYRICS READ:

I remember when my burdens rolled away;
I had carried them for years, night and day.
When I sought the blessed Lord,
And I took Him at His word,
Then at once all my burdens rolled away.

I remember when my burdens rolled away;
That I feared would never leave, night or day.
Jesus showed to me the loss,
So I left them at the cross;
I was glad when my burdens rolled away

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE? NO! TOO GOOD BUT TRUE!

And the grand result was that many people from the whole region came to believe that Jesus was the savior of the world

We just have to read this:

John 4:39-42

39 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did."

40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days.

- 41 And because of his words many more became believers.
42 They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

LIFT YOUR EYES AND LOOK – IT'S HARVEST TIME

That's the word I want to sieze on this morning:
LIFT UP YOUR EYES AND LOOK – THE HARVEST IS HERE!

Do you know what "Carpe Diem" means? Sieze the Day!

Don't miss the woman at your well
Don't walk through this world with your eyes down
Look up and see....

All Jesus did was engage this woman in conversation
"Pardon me, could you please give me a drink of water?"
And he let the conversation go where it did!

Let's not be the prisoners of our own schedules and protocols!

I don't talk to strangers, especially woman/or men
I don't have time for conversations

Understand that God has a purpose for your life
Let's get on God's schedule and get off our own

We are part of God's family So let's be part of the family business

One thing we can say about Jesus! Jesus had eyes to see!

- 36 Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.**
37 Then He *said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.
38 "Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

HARVEST TIME IS AN IMPERITIVE
If the harvest is ready
And it's not harvested in a timely manner
Much of the Harvest will be lost

PRACTICE SEEING THE PEOPLE

He saw the people:
He saw in their eyes that they were distressed
He saw that they were depressed

It's interesting to me that when Jesus saw that people were in distress and that they were depressed, He knew they were ready to be Harvested for the kingdom

He saw that they had the problem:
And knew they were ready for the answer

But there were very few who were harvesting
They either didn't even see that the harvest was ready
Or they were engaged – preoccupied elsewhere

The harvest is ready, But the harvesters are few!
Pray, Beg God to send out more

Who do you think these harvesters are?
Are they some select group of Christian green berets?

No! They are ordinary people like you and me
Hey! They are you and me!

Why aren't we harvesting?
Perhaps We are just Unaware
Perhaps we don't believe that this is a job for us
Perhaps We Busy with other things
Perhaps We are afraid that the harvest doesn't want to be harvested

Jesus wants to hire us as harvesters

Matthew 20:1-7

- 1 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.
- 2 “When he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard.
- 3 “And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the market place;
- 4 and to those he said, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.’ And so they went.
- 5 “Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did the same thing.
- 6 “And about the eleventh *hour* he went out and found others standing *around*; and he *said* to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day long?’
- 7 “They *said* to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’ He *said* to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’

BECAUSE NO ONE HIRED US?

God goes out every morning to hire laborers to work in His vineyard – pick me Lord, pick me!

Why have you been standing around here idle all day?
Because no-one has hired us!
You go into the vineyard too!

God has a job for all of us in His vineyard AND IT'S A PAID POSITION!

Thus the term “Hired” applies
There are incredible rewards to this work
It will satisfy your soul -- It will make you happy
Your food will be to accomplish his work

Deion Sanders, the only athlete to play in both the Super Bowl and the World Series, said, "No touchdown, no home run, no stolen base, no tackle, no interception compares to me leading someone to Christ. Nothing comes close."

HARVEST EVERYWHERE

Don't think for one moment that you need to leave your job to work the harvest, the harvest is at your job...

Don't think for a moment that you'll have to change your daily routine to bring in the harvest – The harvest is waiting for you on your daily walk, in the coffee house, in the grocery store, it is next to you at the LA Fitness Club, on the other side of your backyard fence, on the beach at Canon Beach, or at the Post Hotel, in the RV campground in Yellowstone Park.

The average Christian has heard this word evangelism too many times.

We have certain preconceived notions of what it is, how to do it, and where to do it, and who should do it

We can't seem to conceive of it as a normal natural function of life: That can fit in the normal and natural flow of life.

We've been duped by the Devil
People don't want to hear it
I'm not an evangelist
I don't have the training
It's against the law

As the woman at the well illustrates:
Often times the most productive Harvester is a new Christian

What will you and I see today when we come upon the woman at our well?

Will we even notice her?
Will we avoid her?
Will we deliberately NOT speak to her?

We bring the light of the Gospel
In many ways
By taking an interest in others
By getting involved
By engaging in conversation
By helping or serving
By our generosity
By showing that you care
By sharing our testimony
By Praying for People

At the kickoff of our 40 days of prayer They were talking about praying for people

Sharon Hamill mentioned that she often asks people this question: "Can I pray for you?"

And she declared: In the hundreds of times that she has asked people,

She has never had anyone say “No”

Here is a person who has her Eyes open to the people around her” Valerie does the same thing, all the time

It Opens a door to the harvest.....

Let’s Lift up our eyes and see the people around us

Here’s something that we can all aspire to

LORD BLESS ME TO BE A BLESSING

Gen 12:

- 1 The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.
- 2 “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.
- 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

The apostle spoke to all Christians about Following in the footsteps of our father Abraham

What does it mean to follow in the footsteps of our father

It means to embrace the same promise from God

GO WITH ME -- JUST GO OUT THERE To a place I will show you

I WILL BLESS YOU AND MAKE YOU A BLESSING TO OTHERS

AND ALL THE PEOPLE ON EARTH WILL BE BLESSED THROUGH YOU

It is my firm conviction that God gave Abraham this promise because he was the kind of man who was willing and wanting to “Be a blessing to everyone he met in his life”

He was not one of those self-centered people who wants to gain the whole world at the risk of losing his own soul.

Let me close this by reaffirming an irrevocable truth

I am encouraging us to Lift up our eyes to see the harvest
To take steps of faith and engage the world

But let us also lift up our eyes to and see that this is a job we cannot do on our own

This work of bringing in the harvest defines Jesus’ Purpose on earth And it should define those of us who follow him

We have this promise found in the Great commission
If and when we go, He will be with us!

Matthew 28:19-20

- 19 GO Ye, therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit
- 20 Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; AND LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH....

CHOSEN TO BEAR FRUIT

John 15: 4-5 and 16

- 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.
- 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.
- 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last