Witness in Samaria

John 4:27-42

I. The Woman Testifies to the Samaritans– 4:28-30

1. She Left Her Waterpot – 4:28a

“The woman then left her waterpot,”

1. She still hadn’t got water.

2. She left it for Jesus and His disciples to use.

3. She was so excited, she forgot.

1. She Went Back to her Village – 4:28b

“went her way into the city” (her own city)

That’s the hardest place to witness, esp. for her: she is a woman and has a reputation.

1. She Told the Men the Good News – 4:28a-29

“and said to the men,”

1. She Described the “Man”

“Come, see a Man ﻿﻿who told me all things that I ever did.”

Your testimony is good witnessing material. This is a sign to her and to them. This man is special. (She already believes) He had told her, “I am He.

2. She Asked them a Question -

“Could this be the Christ?”

Literally, this couldn’t be the Christ, could it? They wouldn’t listen to a woman, esp. this woman.

1. The Men went to Jesus – 4:30

“Then they went out of the city and came to Him.”

That is the object of any witness – bring and/or send them to Jesus. Help them all you can, but remember John the Baptist: “Jesus must increase / I must decrease. Teach them to go to Jesus directly. And take others with them.

II. Jesus Teaches His Disciples – 4: [27] 31-38

A. The Disciples’ Question – 4:27

1. They Wondered – 4:27a ﻿

“And at this *point* His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman;”

They wonder among themselves. No Rabbi would talk to a woman in public, esp. this woman.

2. They did not Ask – 4:27b

“yet no one said, “What do You seek?” or, “Why are You talking with her?”

Maybe they didn’t want a rebuke from Him as Peter received from Jesus in later on in Matt. 16:23, when Jesus told them that it was necessary for Him to die,

“Peter said, Far be it from You, Lord; But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, ﻿﻿Satan! ﻿﻿You are ﻿﻿an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

B. The Disciples’ Concern – 4:31

1. Their Request – 4:31

“In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” Jesus had not eaten , that’s why they went to town.”

2. Jesus’ Response – 4:32

“But He said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.”

3. Their Reasoning – 4:33

“Therefore the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him *anything* to eat?”

They are still thinking on the physical level.

4. Jesus’ Reply – 4:34-38 – “to them and to us.”

Following Jesus’ Example:

1. Our Meat – 4:34

“Jesus said to them, ﻿﻿“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to ﻿﻿finish His work.”

1. Do God’s will -- “This is the will of God that you believe on Him Who sent Me.”

1. Finish His work -- Jesus’ part of the work of God in redemption was to come to earth, die for mankind and return to heaven.
2. Our Mission – 4:35-38

1. The Need for Reapers – 4:35

1. You know the time for crops.

“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and *then* comes ﻿﻿the harvest’?

This may have been a local saying. The harvest of crops may have been four months away, but the harvest of souls is always today.

1. The time for souls is now -- Just look around you!

“Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, ﻿﻿for they are already white for harvest!”

Once you know the crop, then you can know the time. This crop is souls of lost men and women, boys and girls. The time is now. The night is coming when no man may work.

1. The Nature of the Reward – 4:36-38

﻿“And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that ﻿﻿both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.”

The reward is called wages and fruit. The laborer receives pay at the time of the harvest.

“for eternal life” refers to not to receiving eternal life – they already have that. The rewards are connected to eternal life in that the sower offers eternal life and the rewards are enjoyed in the eternal life.

“For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.” (4:37)

In I Cor. 3:6-8 Paul wrote,

“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.”

We don’t always see the results of our witness. But Jesus, out Judge, keeps good books. It’s all in there - The good, the bad, and the ugly, and the computer will not crash.

“I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; ﻿﻿others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.” (4:38)

This verse sort of sneaks up on you! You would think that this was their first contact with the Gospel.

“others have labored” - These Samaritans were looking for Messiah. How did they know to do that?

1. The O.T. – Pentateuch -- Their leaders had taught that Messiah would come.

2. John the Baptist or his disciples -- At the Judgment Seat of Christ, they will receive their reward.

III. The Samaritans Talk for Themselves – 4:39-42

A. They Believed the Word of the Woman – 4:39

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“And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him ﻿﻿because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I *ever* did.”

This showed that He was no ordinary man. Connect that to their knowledge of the coming Messiah and it rang a bell.

B. Many More Believed the Word of Jesus – 4:40-41

“So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own ﻿﻿word.”

In that two days Jesus taught many people, so many more believed.

﻿C. They Now Believed for Themselves – 4:42

“Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for ﻿﻿we ourselves have heard *Him* and we know that this is indeed ﻿﻿the Christ, the Savior of the world.”

When we bring them to Jesus, they have even more reason to believe. Their faith is strengthened.

Conclusion:

Whenever they believed, they received eternal life. That is a gift: You can’t buy it or bargain for it. It is eternal: You can’t get the shorter version.

You will never hear the words, “Wait, we will give you twice as much if you decide in him in the next five minutes.”

And you can’t send in the empty container and get your money back if you don’t like it. There is no container large enough to hold it. And you can’t use it up.

When we’ve been there 10,000 years,

Bright shining as the sun.

We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise,

Than when we’ve\* first begun.

[\*this is correct. Otherwise, it’s bad English.]