

Home Group Leader's Notes

Week of March 7, 2021

John 4:27-42

Note: You can hear Bill Born's message on John 4 through our website or on Youtube.

YOUR WORLD

Sometimes God puts someone in your world that grabs your heart. For you, who is that? How are they like or different from you? Why do you think they are significant to you?

As we study Jesus' and the disciple's encounter with the Samaritans, we are going to be encouraged to 'see' the people in our world. For many of us, we can cruise through life without seeing the people God wants us to love and invite in.

LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD, THE BIBLE

Our focus this week is on John 4:27-42. (You can hear the message by Bill Born on our website.)

Our passage for the week continues the encounter of Jesus with a Samaritan woman.

Read John 4:3-42. Consider the following questions about 4:27-42.

What signs are there in this passage that the woman genuinely believed?

The woman did several things that often come with true faith: (1) She thought Jesus to be the Messiah, (2) She confessed what she had done wrong to others, and (3) She invited others to see Jesus.

Jesus and the woman spoke of several things. What did she choose to say to the people? Why this choice? (28-29)

She could have talked about living water, theological conversation, etc. But instead, she shared that a man, she thought to be the Messiah, knew her past. This, and not the theological statement, was personal and real to her. People came because of her testimony. I believe that she was struck by Jesus' love, offer of eternal life, and insight into the truth including the truth about her. She saw grace in action.

Why would the woman's words persuade people to stop what they were doing and make their way toward Jesus? (30)

Good question, right? I wonder what someone would say to me that I would stop my activity and walk out to meet someone at a well. In addition, remember that the woman probably didn't have high credibility.

In the discourse about "food," what does Jesus want His disciples (and us) to learn? (31-34)

Jesus' food (sustenance, purpose, pleasure) is to do God's will and work. This was more important than what we think of as essential in life. AND, this was Jesus' pleasure.

In this passage, what were the people learning about knowing and following Jesus? (27-42)

His disciples: **Jesus intentionally went to people who needed the good news, even if they were different or not their 'kind.'** They also learned about Jesus' food, about partnership in the harvest (sowers and reapers).

The townspeople: **They were invited by a woman to see Jesus. They believed that He is the Messiah and wanted to know His teachings (for two more days).**

The woman: **She learned of the good news including eternal life, of Jesus' (God's) willingness to seek her out, of God's work through her simple testimony, and that Jesus is the Messiah.**

When discussing His "work," what was Jesus teaching the disciples (and us) about kingdom work? (34-38) **The harvest of God's kingdom is accomplished by multiple people over a period of time. God's will and work is done by working TOGETHER. Jesus told them they were harvesting what others (John the Baptist? Jesus? The woman?) had sown.**

(Comment: Jesus said that they would "reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work. . . ." (38) This could refer to John the Baptist who was working in the area, calling people to repentance. It could also be referring to Jesus' work with the woman who was now bringing back people from the town.)

How are the final sentences (39-42) an example of fruit from the work of the woman? **People were coming to see Jesus because the woman believed, humbled herself, shared her testimony, and invited people to see Jesus.**

How is the author, John, connecting the words of the townspeople to John 3:16-17? (42) **John 3:16-17** "For God so loved **the world [including Samaritans]** that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. "For God did not send the Son into the world **[including Samaritans]** to judge the world, but that the world **[including Samaritans]** might be saved through Him.

Read again verse 29, the one sentence testimony and question of the woman. What would your one sentence testimony include?

This would be an encouraging thing to share with one another.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

Jesus passion to do the "will and work of God" led Him to go "to" Samaria rather than go "through" Samaria. How does this inform us about God's passion which is to be our passion? What would "to" versus "through" look like in our daily lives?

If these Jewish disciples were called to reach even Samaritans, whom has God called me to reach? What if the people on my block, not my favorites, are the very people that God wants me to reach? What if God gives me a flat tire because He wants me to serve /connect with the tow truck driver or the mechanic? This story is a very powerful call to all of us.

Jesus called the disciples (and us) to "open your eyes and look at the fields." What does He want us to "see?" What keeps us from seeing? Listening? Caring? Engaging?

It is common for me to have an agenda and not even 'see' the people as I go through my day. My agenda, comfort, preferences, and idolatries are a distraction from the will and work of God. Jesus example of compassion for the Samaritans is a mandate to me.

How do we bring people to “come and see” Jesus when he is not sitting at the well? How do we do this together?

Three things Jesus said seem to be the foundation of how we invite people to see Jesus:

- **Our love and passion to know, love, and follow Jesus. Jesus said that we would have to deny ourselves and take up our cross daily. This is something the world sees.**
- **Our love and unity is a visible expression of Jesus in our world.**
- **As we abide in Jesus, we serve together according to our God-given abilities, placement, gifts, and resources. God then produces eternal fruit.**

JOINING WITH JESUS IN THE WILL AND WORK OF GOD

Anthony shared (on Sunday) about walking through the “Gospel of Mark” with his brothers. (He used the curriculum called, “Christianity Explored.”)

What is something that will help you to join Jesus in the will and work of God?

This is about us individually serving God’s will and work. For example, whom has God put in my world to pray for and serve, include and invite? Or, we could do something like Anthony and invite in a friend or family member.

What is something that your group could do together to bring people to Jesus?

This is about working together to reach out. For example:

- **Hosting something with the intent to invite in people**
- **Hosting Christianity Explored and inviting in friends**
- **Serving together at something hosted by a ministry (e.g. at Trinity Church)**

Grace to you,

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