

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

11) One Sows and Another Reaps

'And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?" The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him'

(John 4:27-30)

***'In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work'
(John 4:31-34)***

- ✓ **Jesus' point is we do not live by bread alone**
- ✓ **Doing the Father's will was His meat and drink, i.e. that which satisfied His inner being**
- ✓ **His spirit had been invigorated by something the disciples 'knew not of'**
- ✓ **Grace does not make us lazy. Nor does it pander only to our physical comforts and wants. It gives us inner strength and ability to face all the situations and challenges of life. Also, we discover that in dispensing blessing to others we are blessed ourselves**
- ✓ **It was not ministry as such that was His meat, but doing the Father's will**

- ✓ **The work of the Father and the work of Jesus, though similar, have a distinction**
- ✓ **The Father appoints souls for salvation, *'For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day'* (John 6:38-39)**
- ✓ **This woman was given to Jesus by appointment. This is why He had to pass through Samaria**
- ✓ **God has given us to Jesus. *'For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ'* (1 Thes.5:9)**
- ✓ **The work of Christ was to go to the cross to save us. To finish His work: *'Finish'* = *teleio* the root from which we get *tetelestai***

- **Jesus' meat was to do His Father's will, which included going to those the Father sent Him to**
- **Our meat is not in seeing results but in doing the will of the Father**
- **In John 5:3 we read a great multitude lay at the pool of Siloam, but Jesus only ministered to one, 'But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." ...Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel' (John 5:17,19-20)**

'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 he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors'

(John 4:35-38)

- ✓ **Farmers knew that there was a period of four months or so between sowing and reaping**
- ✓ **This was also a proverb with the idea that there is no particular hurry for a task because things simply take time and you can't avoid the waiting**
- ✓ **Jesus *did not* want His disciples to have this mentality; He wanted them to think and act as if the harvest was always ready**
- ✓ ***'Lift up your eyes and see'***
- ✓ **Maybe we are sowing, maybe watering or maybe reaping. Don't hold back, if the harvest is ready it won't wait.**

- ✓ **The prophets had sown the promise of the coming Messiah. Their work seemed to be without fruit**
- ✓ **But now came the harvest, and the Lord reminds His disciples of their indebtedness to the labors of those who had gone before**
- ✓ **We never know what seeds of truth may have been lodged in hearts by others**
- ✓ **Others have sown before us so we can always expect to reap, *'I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase'* (1 Cor.3:6)**

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This encounter prepared the way for the events of Acts 8:14-17: *'Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed'*

Jesus said: *'But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth'*
(Acts 1:8)

When Jesus said, 'Other men labored, and you entered into their labors' He used a word which signified 'to toil to the point of exhaustion,' It is the same word used at the beginning of this chapter, when we read, 'Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey'

'Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord'

(1 Cor. 15:58)

**The fruit and the reward will last for eternity
Not only do those saved through the labors of others receive eternal life, but the joy of both will be eternal too**

'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." 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. 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"'

(John 4:39-42)

Her testimony opened the door, but their own encounter with Jesus led to personal faith in Him

***He stayed there two days: This was remarkable in light of the opinions of most of the Jewish people of Jesus' day regarding the Samaritans**

***In the days Jesus spent among the Samaritans He taught them, and many more believed**

***Remember, Jesus left Judea because it was not safe for Him to be there. Even though they had seen miracles many did not believe. But in Samaria they never saw a miracle yet many believed**

***This whole incident is another example of God using the weak and even despised**

**The woman at the well
had been divorced 5
times and Jesus STILL
used her.**

**Don't let people count
you out because you
have a complicated
past.**

**Jesus preserves your
future.**