

JOHN 4 AND THE GOSPEL – Part 2

April 3, 2022

We're taking some time to look at the gospel of John, for it contains important truths that will enable you to better understand the gospel, and thereby have a profound and positive effect on your heart, your soul, and your life, and on the lives of others you know.

We're looking at John 4 and here are the main lessons we learned last week.

- We learned that we're to love everyone, no matter who they are.
- We learned that we're not to be afraid of anyone, for we have God's truth and God's Spirit.
- We learned the importance of one-on-one conversations, of being personal with people.
- We learned that we're to share the gospel whether we feel like it or not.
- We learned that we're to make the most of our opportunities, the situations we're in.
- We learned that salvation is a free gift from God; it's not what we deserve or can work for.
- We learned that being saved means we have this living water, this spiritual water from God, and that we can only be spiritually nourished and strengthened by this living water.
- We learned that sin is what keeps, what prevents a person from having this living water.

Well, there's more we need to learn in John 4, and so let's continue:

9. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, God in the flesh.

- Vs. 12. The woman asks if Jesus is greater than Jacob, one of the patriarchs, the one who first had this well where they were now drinking from.
- Vs. 19. The woman wonders if Jesus is a prophet, for He knew exactly how many husbands she had, five, and that the man she was presently with, wasn't her husband.
- Vss. 25-26. Jesus tells her He's the Messiah, the Christ. She had heard that the Messiah was coming, and now Jesus is actually talking to her.
- Vss. 28-30. The woman goes back into town, and she is talking to some men, and she is wondering if this Jesus is indeed the Messiah. Now we don't know at that time if she was saved or not, but if she wasn't, she would be very soon. Vs. 39

Understanding who Jesus is, and that God sent Him to earth to take away our sins is a very important subject. Only as we believe who Jesus is, that He's God in the flesh can we believe what He did for us, that He died for us, and that only He can save us from our sins. Here are some passages from John where Jesus tells us that He is God:

- John 3:13-16 - Jesus is telling Nicodemus that He's God, that He's the Son of Man, that God sent Him down to earth to die for our sins.
- John 5:19-23 - Jesus is saying God is His Father, which means Jesus Himself is God.
- John 5:8 - Here Jesus heals a man. In Jn. 6, we read that Jesus feeds thousands of people, and these miracles are evidence, are proofs, that He is not just a man, but is God.
- John 14:8-9 - Jesus told His disciples that He was God. Again, Jesus has to be both God and Man if He's going to save us from our sins. And this is one of the most important points of the gospel, that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah. John 1:29

10. Salvation is from the Jews. This woman is confused as to the truth, and Jesus wants her to know that the person who brings salvation is a Jew, is a descendant of the Jews.
- Gen. 12:1-3, along with many other vss. make it clear that it's through Abraham that God would bless the world, and this blessing would be both spiritual and physical in nature.
- Matt. 1 and Luke 3 list out the ancestors of Jesus, and they're Jews. Rom. 9:3-5
This too tells us that Jesus is descended from the Jews. Psalm 14:7, Rev. 12:1-2
- These vss. make it clear that salvation doesn't come from anyone else or from any other religion. It's not the Buddhist religion, the Hindu religion, the Islamic religion, or any other religion that can save you. Salvation only comes from the Jews and from Christ. Acts 4:12

11. The primary result of being saved is that we're to worship God the Father, we're to glorify Him. Let me share a number of points about worship:

1. Worshiping God isn't a matter of worshiping Him in some place or building. Samaritans believed that only the Pentateuch is the word of God, and from Deut. 11:29, they believed they were to worship God at Mount Gerazim, which is the mountain this woman was referring to. But 2 Samuel says God wanted the Jews to worship Him in Jerusalem, which is what the Old Testament tells us that the Jews did.

But Jesus said the time was coming when you wouldn't worship God in either place. He knew Jerusalem and the temple would be destroyed, which happened in 70AD. Of course, worshiping God isn't a matter of worshiping Him in a place, it's not that you come to this building or any church building to worship Him. You are to worship God wherever you are at. Acts 17:24

2. True worshipers worship God in spirit and truth. This word spirit isn't referring to the Holy Spirit, but to a person's inner spirit, his heart, his soul. Jesus said that God is spirit, and the way we worship a spirit is by our spirit. Worship is a matter of the heart, a spirit that's been transformed by God. You see, worship isn't a matter of some ritual, ceremony, or sacrifice we do. Worship must start in our spirit, in our heart, in our innermost thoughts. And worship must be based on the truth, the truth about God and Jesus Christ, the truth that salvation is only through Christ.

3. God seeks worshipers. This is God's #1 purpose for the world - He wants people to worship Him, and rightly so, for He's God and He should be worshiped and He deserves to be worshiped, for who He is and for what He does. Ps. 145-150
- Not only that, but He knows that when we put Him first, when we worship Him, then we will be fulfilled, we will be filled with love, joy, peace, and be fully satisfied. This should be our purpose in life, to help other believers worship God, and for more and more people to get saved so they can love God and worship Him.

4. Jesus wants people to worship His Father. You notice in these vss. that Jesus didn't say He wanted people to worship Him. And yes, people should worship Jesus, and other vss. say that, but in this passage, we see Jesus' humility, and we see His #1 desire, His #1 purpose, is for people to worship God His Father.

- John 17:1-5. Jesus wanted to be glorified so that His Father would be glorified. And one of the main ways Jesus glorified His Father was by doing the work the Father gave Him to do. Phil. 2:9-11, 1 Cor. 15:23-28

5. People can be described as ones who worship God or ones who don't worship God. And unbelievers, the unsaved don't worship God. They worship the creature, worship the Creation. Rom. 1:20-25. They don't love God, but instead love themselves or other people or animals or possessions or money or things. 2 Tim. 3:2-4

12. Doing God's will energizes and sustains us. Jesus was talking to this lady, and He was tired, He had a lot on His mind, He had been doing a lot of things. And how did He keep going? How did He keep doing what His Father wanted Him to do? Jesus said He had food to eat that no one knew about – and this food was not physical food but spiritual food. It meant Jesus had a relationship with His Father and with the Holy Spirit, and this relationship strengthened and sustained Him.

Deut. 8:3 - *"Man shall not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."* Jesus' food was His relationship with His Father, and this would include the very words of God. If you have a relationship with someone, then there's communication - words being spoken back and forth. And Jesus was hearing the words of His Father, and these weren't empty words, words on a piece of paper, but the very words of God, of His Father, and these words were true words, loving words, powerful words, words that nourished Him. This is why we need to feed on God's word, to meditate on God's word, for it's our food, and the means by which we can live and do what God wants us to do.

One aspect of these words, of this communication Jesus had with His Father related to God's will, to His purpose for His Son, to the work He wanted Jesus to do. And Jesus has this perfect, super-close relationship with His Father and His Father tells Him what to do. And Jesus wants to do it, for He loves His Father and wants to please His Father. And so God's purpose for Jesus' life was food to Him. And what Jesus' Father tells Him to do really motivates and energizes Him. Jesus is driven and determined to do exactly what His Father wanted Him to do, and everything His Father wanted Him to do.

This is why Jesus said, “*My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.*” And Jesus wanted to do His Father’s work but also to finish it, to complete it. Jn. 17:4 And each of us should have a close relationship with God, and be motivated by what God says to us, and by what He tells us to do. Knowing that God has you on this earth to fulfill His purpose, to do His work, and to complete the work He has given you to do should really motivate you, should strengthen, should super-charge your heart. Acts 20:24, 2 Tim. 4:7-8

13. Jesus was reaping a harvest. What do these vss. say about reaping a harvest?

1. Jesus was motivated by the words of His Father to work, to share the truth, but He was also motivated because He knew there would be a harvest, and we need to know this too. As long as we’re on this earth, there will be a harvest. Sometimes the harvest is big, and sometimes it’s small, but there will always be a harvest to the end of this church age.

2. When we talk about harvesting a crop, you have to have sowers and reapers, ones who plant the seed, and ones who harvest the crop. In these vss., the emphasis is on being a reaper. And yes, you may sow God’s word and not reap right away, but God wants you to have the mind of a reaper, and be believing that you will reap a harvest. Many people you know have heard the gospel, the seed has been sown in their heart, but they’re not saved yet, and so keep believing that God wants to use you to be a reaper.

3. There is eternal fruit, which means the lives of people who get saved, who receive eternal life are eternal fruit, and have an eternal relationship with God, and are eternally blessed.

4. When you work for God, you receive wages, and these are eternal wages.

If you have an earthly job, you receive earthly wages, but these wages we are talking about are heavenly wages, eternal wages, eternal rewards. Col. 3:23-24

5. Now as a church, each of us have a job to do, and in this passage, we read about being sowers and reapers. And remember, we are working together for the Lord – there should be no jealousy, no competition, but rather, divine teamwork, and when there’s a harvest, we should all be glad, we should all be rejoicing. 1 Cor. 3:5-9

14. The testimony of the woman was believed. This woman’s testimony along with the testimony of Jesus had supernatural and eternal results. And so here’s this sinful woman who got saved, and God used her testimony to affect the lives of others.

God wants to use us in this way too. Each of you have a testimony about what God has done in your life, and God wants you to share it with others. And God will then use your testimony in the lives of people you share with.