

“To The Work!”
John 4:31-42

Introduction:

1. Let's Open Our Bibles:
 - To John 4 - Where:
 - We Just Finished Witnessing:
 - The Ministry Of Jesus:
 - To A Samaritan Woman:
 - At Jacob's Well!
2. And - As We Continue The Story:
 - We Find Jesus - Once Again:
 - Alone With His Disciples!
 - But - He Is Still:
 - Weary From The Journey:
 - Weak From Hunger:
 - And Perhaps Even Still Thirsty:
 - Since We Are Never Told That:
 - The Woman "Gave Him To Drink!"
 - And - If You Remember:
 - From 4:8 - His Disciples:
 - Had Previously - "Gone Away Unto The City To Buy Meat - Food!"
 - And - Now - They Returned To Jesus:
 - With That Food!
 - And - They Were Concerned:
 - About Their Master:
 - And His Health & Strength!
3. And So - Picking Up:
 - Where We Left Off:
 - At 4:31 - We Read That:
 - "In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat!"
 - Read Through 4:42!
 - **IE:** Every Four Years - Whenever We Elect A New President - He & His Advisors Go About To Select Who Will Serve With Him In His Administration! Cabinet Officials! Chief Of Staff! Press Officers! And Most Of Those Who Are Asked & Invited To Serve - Will Serve - Because Of The Great Honor It Is To Do So!
 - Well - In These Verses:
 - The Lord Jesus Invites His Disciples:
 - To Join *Him* & Serve *With Him*:
 - In *His* Work!
 - And - This Is The Greatest Honor:
 - And Calling:
 - That Anyone Can Have:
 - In This World!
4. But - The Invitation:
 - That Jesus Gave To His Disciples *Then*:
 - Is The Same Invitation:
 - He Gives To His Disciples:
 - *Now!* Even Today!
 - And So - From These Verses:
 - I Want You To See With Me:
 - The Great Need We Have:
 - To Join & Enter Into:
 - The Great Ministry Of Christ!
 - And - If You Are Struggling:
 - In Your Own Commitment To & Service For The Lord Today:
 - I Pray That You Will See This Need & Hear His Invitation:
 - In A Fresh New Way!
- Because - To Enter Into:

- The Ministry Of Christ:
 - You Need To Personally:
 - Enter Into:
 - His Great Longing!
 - His Great Labor! And:
 - His Great Lesson:
 - Found In These Verses!
- And So - To Enter Into:
 - The Great Ministry & Service Of The Lord:
 - You Need To - First:

1. Enter Into The Great Longing Of Christ:

- That We Saw In 4:31-34!
 - In 4:31 - The Disciples Implored Jesus:
 - To Eat The Food:
 - That They Had Just Bought & Brought Back To Him:
 - From The Town Of Sychar!
 - “In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat!”
 - Together - They Kept On Insisting That:
 - Jesus Regain His Physical Strength:
 - By Eating Their Food!
- Of Course - The Disciples Are To Be Commended:
 - For Their Love & Care For Jesus!
 - But - I Wonder If:
 - Perhaps They Might Have Been Thinking About Themselves As Well!
 - After All - They Called Him:
 - “Master” - Or - “Rabbi!”
 - And - Out Of Respect For Him:
 - They Probably Did Not Eat Until He Did!
 - So - They Would Have Been Hungry Too!
- But - Jesus Uses His Disciples’ Concern & Longing:
 - For *Him* - To Show *Them*:
 - That He Had An Even Greater Longing:
 - Than Food!
 - Not Because Physical Food:
 - Was *Unimportant*!
 - But Because - Physical Food:
 - Was Not *Most* Important!
- And So - How Does Jesus Reply?
 - 4:32 - “But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of!”
 - Of Course - You Need Food:
 - To Strengthen You:
 - When You Are Weak!
 - To Sustain You:
 - When You’re Working!
 - And Even - To Satisfy You!
 - **IE**: Like Ice Cream!
 - But - When Jesus Told Them:
 - That He Had Already Been Strengthened & Sustained & Satisfied From:
 - Some Meat & Food That:
 - They Didn’t Know About:
 - They Were Confused!
- They Appear To Be:
 - Just As Confused About:
 - His “Meat!”
 - As The Samaritan Woman:
 - Had Been About:
 - His “Living Water!

- But - Instead Of Asking:
 - *Jesus* About His “Meat” - Instead:
 - In 4:33 - “Therefore said the disciples *one to another*, Hath any man brought him ought to eat?”
 - Why Didn’t They Ask Jesus First:
 - About The “Meat” He Had?
 - After All - He Was Right There!
- Do You Go To The Lord:
 - First - When You Have Questions Or Concerns?
 - About Life? About Truth?
- Well - In Response To Their Response:
 - Jesus Tells Them & Us:
 - Just What His “Meat” Is!
 - 4:34 - “Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work!”
 - The “Meat” Of Jesus:
 - Was Both To:
 - Fulfill *The Will* Of God:
 - That He Was Sent To Fulfill!
 - As Well As To:
 - Finish *The Work* Of God:
 - That He Was Sent To Finish!
 - The “Meat” Of Jesus:
 - Was His Inner Drive & Purpose:
 - To Be *The Redeemer*:
 - According To God’s Will & Plan For Him - And:
 - To Bring *Redemption*:
 - According To God’s Work & Promise Through Him!
 - Of Course - Jesus Did Ultimately:
 - Fulfill All Of God’s Will - And:
 - Finish All Of God’s Work:
 - By His Life & Death & Resurrection!
 - And - He Did So - So That:
 - If You Turn To & Trust In Him:
 - Like That Samaritan Woman:
 - You Too Can Be Saved!
 - But - This “Meat” & This Purpose:
 - Gave Jesus:
 - More Strength & Stamina & Satisfaction:
 - Than Even His Necessary, Physical Food!
- And - His Disciples Didn’t Yet:
 - Know Or Understand This!
 - But - The Lord Didn’t Want Them - And:
 - He Doesn’t Want You:
 - To Remain Ignorant Of The Greatest Longing Of His Heart!
 - And So - He Invites You:
 - To Enter Into His Longing As Well!
 - To Enter Into His Purpose!
 - Even To “Eat” His “Meat!”
 - Which Is:
 - To Pursue After:
 - God’s Will - So That It Becomes:
 - Your Will! And:
 - To Pursue After:
 - God’s Work - So That It Becomes:
 - Your Work!
 - Is This True For You Today?
 - Is The Will & Work Of God:

- The “Meat” Of Your Life & Existence?
 - Is It Your Driving Purpose?
- If Not - You Will Never:
 - Know Or Understand:
 - The Strength & Satisfaction Only His “Meat” Can Bring!
- So - To Enter Into:
 - The Ministry Of Christ:
 - You Need To Personally:
 - Enter Into His Great Longing!
 - But Then - Second:
 - You Also Need To Personally:

2. *Enter Into The Great Labor Of Christ!*

- Which Is What We Find Next - In 4:35-38!
 - Where Jesus Says - “Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. / And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. / And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. / I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours!”
- Now - What Jesus Said In 4:35:
 - May Have Been:
 - A Simple Proverb:
 - That People Used In That Day:
 - To Encourage Patience & Perseverance!
 - 4:35a - “Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest?”
 - Or - It May Reflect:
 - What The Disciples Themselves Were Saying:
 - As They Were Making Their Way:
 - From Judea To Galilee:
 - And Would Help Us Know The Time When Jesus Said These Words!
 - Either Way - The Point That Jesus:
 - Makes With His Disciples:
 - Is The Same!
 - When It Comes To:
 - The Will & Work Of God To Harvest The Souls Of Men For His Kingdom:
 - It Is Not Time To Wait!
 - Because - The Harvest Is Now!
 - Because - In The Rest Of 4:35:
 - Imagine Jesus Pointing To:
 - The Crowd Of Samaritans:
 - Who Were Making Their Way The ½ Mile From The City - Where The Woman Was:
 - To The Countryside & The Well - Where Jesus Was!
 - He Points To Them And Says To His Disciples:
 - 4:35b - “Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest!”
 - The Fields Themselves:
 - Were Probably Bare:
 - Of Seeds & Sprouts!
 - But - They Were Full:
 - Of Human Souls!
 - And This Was The “Harvest” & The “Labor” Jesus Invited Them Into! Even:
 - To Share In The Blessing:
 - Of This “Harvest Of Souls!”
 - In 4:36 - Jesus Described The Great Blessing:
 - Of Entering Into His Labor!
 - It’s Because - “He that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together!”
 - In Jesus’ Day:
 - It Took Some Time:

- For Those Who Participated In The Harvest:
 - To Get Paid!
- But Here - Jesus Says:
 - In This Gospel Age:
 - When You Enter Into The Labor Of The Lord:
 - You Can Receive Blessing For Doing So:
 - Even Now!
- There's The Blessing Of:
 - Rewards!
 - Because - "The One Who Is Reaping Is Receiving Wages / Rewards!"
 - God Will Often Provide Spiritual Gratification When You Participate In His Work - From The Heart!
- There's The Blessing Of:
 - Rescue!
 - Just Knowing That You Are "Gathering Fruit Unto Life Eternal!"
 - Knowing - That God Is Using You In His Plan To Bring People:
 - From Death Unto Life!
 - James 5:20 - "He which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins!"
 - There's The Blessing Of:
 - Rejoicing!
 - With *Everyone* Who Is Involved In This "Harvest Of Souls!"
 - Including The Lord!
 - In Luke 15:10 - Jesus Said:
 - "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth!"
 - Jesus Wasn't Just Talking About The Joy Of The Angels - But The Joy Of The One "In The Presence Of The Angels!"
 - God Himself!
 - And - If God Rejoices:
 - Over *One* Sinner That Repents:
 - How Must He Feel:
 - Over *Many* Sinners Who Repent From Their Sin & Believe In Jesus?
 - Do You Desire This Kind Of Blessing?
 - Then Enter Into The Labor Of Christ!
 - Oswald Smith Wrote:
 - "There Is Joy In Serving Jesus,
As I Journey On My Way,
Joy That Fills The Heart With Praises,
Every Hour And Every Day!"
 - "There Is Joy, Joy, Joy In Serving Jesus!
Joy That Throbs Within My Heart!
Every Moment, Every Hour,
As I Draw Upon His Power,
There Is Joy, Joy, Joy
That Never Shall Depart!"
 - Do You *Desire* This Kind Of Joy & Blessing?
 - Do You *Have* This Kind Of Joy & Blessing?
 - You Can - But Only If You Enter Into:
 - The Great Longing Of Christ & The Great Labor Of Christ:
 - With All Your Heart!
 - But - Not Only Do You Get:
 - To Share In The Blessing:
 - Of God's Spiritual Harvest:
 - You Also Get:
 - To Share In The Burden:
 - Of It As Well!
 - Because - In 4:37-38 - Jesus Adds:
 - "And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. / I sent you to reap that

whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours!”

- Here - Jesus Refers To Another Proverb:
 - That Might Have Been Used At The Time:
 - To Express Some Of The Frustration:
 - Of Sowing & Reaping!
- Perhaps There Was Even Some:
 - Jealousy Between:
 - Those Who Sowed & Those Who Reaped!
 - The Sowers:
 - Had A Much Harder Job:
 - Than Those Who Reaped!
 - But The Reapers:
 - Didn't Get Paid As Much:
 - As Those Who Sowed!
- But - There Doesn't Need To Be:
 - Any Of This Kind Of:
 - Frustration Or Rivalry:
 - In God's Harvest Of Souls!
 - Because - We Are All Working Together:
 - For The Same Thing!
 - Or, At Least, We Ought To Be!
- Instead - When You Seek To Serve The Lord:
 - Remember - You Are Not Alone:
 - In Your Service - Because:
 - Jesus Invites You Into:
 - His Service & Ministry!
 - And So - You Have Entered Into:
 - The Labor Of Others!
 - And - The Greatest Laborer:
 - Is God Himself!
 - As Hard As It May Seem To Serve The Lord:
 - The Hard Work Is Accomplished:
 - By The Lord Himself!
 - And - All He Asks From You Is To:
 - Join In & Help! Whether That Is By Planting Or Watering Or Reaping!
 - After All - It Is His Work - And:
 - His Work Alone:
 - To “Give The Increase!” (1 Corinthians 3:6-7)
- Jesus Wants You:
 - To Enter Into His Ministry:
 - If You Are His Disciple!
 - And - When You Do:
 - Both The Burden & The Blessing:
 - Is Shared!
 - So That - The Burden Is Lighter:
 - And - The Blessing Is Greater!
 - What Labor For The Lord:
 - Have You Entered Into?
 - How Are You Serving?
 - What Gifts Are You Using?
 - To Enter Into The Ministry Of Christ:
 - You Need To Personally Enter Into:
 - His Great Longing & His Great Labor!
 - But - You Also Need To Personally:

3. *Enter Into The Great Lesson Of Christ!*

- Which Is What We Come To - In 4:39-42:

- “And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did. / So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days. / And many more believed because of his own word; / And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world!”
 - What Happened In Samaria:
 - Became A Living Object Lesson:
 - Of What It Means To:
 - Enter Into The Ministry Of Christ!
 - It Means To:
 - Lead Others - To Christ - With Your Words:
 - About Him!
 - Just Like The Samaritan Woman Did!
 - 4:32 - “And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did!”
 - That Samaritan Woman:
 - Simply Took The Seed Of Her Testimony:
 - About What Jesus *Said* To Her & What Jesus *Did* For Her:
 - And Scattered It Before The People Of Her City!
 - And Look What God Did!
 - He Used Her Simple Testimony:
 - To Bring “**Many** Of The Samaritans”:
 - To Faith In The Lord!
 - This Is The Kind Of Service:
 - The Lord Invites You Into!
 - A Service Of Simple Testimony:
 - Of The “Great Things The Lord Hath Done For Thee!” (Mark 5:19)
 - If The Lord Has Saved You From Anything!
 - If The Lord Has Taught You About Anything!
 - If The Lord Has Changed Your Life:
 - In Any Way!
 - Then You Have A Testimony:
 - That The World Around You Needs To Hear!
 - And - The Lord Can Use You:
 - The Way He Used That Samaritan Woman!
 - But - Don’t Just Leave People:
 - With **Your** Word & Testimony! Then:
- Lead Others - To Christ - Through His Word!
 - Because - As We Read In 4:41:
 - “And **many more** believed because of his own word!”
 - So - For Two Days - Upon The Request Of The Samaritans:
 - Jesus Stayed With Them!
 - Jesus Spoke To Them! And:
 - Through His Word:
 - Jesus Saved “Many More” Of Them!
 - Through The Divine Power:
 - Of His Word & Truth!
 - Of Course - We Can’t Bring People:
 - To See & Hear Jesus Personally:
 - With Their Own Eyes & Their Own Ears!
 - But - ***This Word (The Bible) Is:***
 - The Word Of Christ!
 - And - God’s Word Is Still:
 - Powerful Enough To Convince Even The Hardest Sinner To Reach That:
 - Jesus - 4:42 - “Is Indeed The Christ, The Savior Of The World!”
 - Do You Believe This?
- So - To Enter Into The Great Ministry Of Christ:
 - You Need To Believe That:

- There Is Still Power:
 - In The Testimony Of A Christian:
 - To Lead People To The Lord!
 - And:
- There Is Still Power:
 - In The Truth & Word Of Christ:
 - To Save Even:
 - The Entire World!

Conclusion:

1. Jesus Wants You:
 - To Enter Into His Great Ministry!
 - And So - He Invites You Today:
 - To Enter Into:
 - His Great Longing:
 - To Pursue The Will & Work Of God With All Of Your Heart!
 - He Invites You - To Enter Into:
 - His Great Labor:
 - So That You Might Share In Both The Burden & The Blessing:
 - In His Harvest Of Souls!
 - He Invites You - To Enter Into:
 - His Great Lesson:
 - That The Word Is A Powerful Thing!
 - Your Word About Christ And The Word Of Christ Himself!
2. - Back In 4:23 - Jesus Told The Samaritan Woman:
 - That His Father Was Seeking:
 - “True Worshipers” - Who Would:
 - Worship Him “In Spirit And In Truth!”
 - Of Course:
 - This Is Where It All Must Start!
 - You - Like The Samaritan Woman:
 - Must First Know & Believe The Truth:
 - About Yourself, About God, And About Jesus Christ:
 - So That You Might Be Saved As She Was!
3. But Here & Now - Jesus Is Seeking:
 - “True Workers” - Who Will:
 - “Enter Into” His Work In This World!
 - Have You? Will You?
 - Because - When You Do:
 - “Enter Into” His Ministry:
 - It Is The Greatest Honor & Calling You Will Ever Have!
 - And - It Will Become Your “Meat!”
 - Just Like It Was The Lord’s!

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
 4245 North 200 West
 Greenfield, Indiana 46140
 317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com