

Theme: When Jesus was engaged in the work God had given him he found more satisfaction and sustenance than in filling his own stomach. The more we are involved in pursuing God’s honor and glory the deeper satisfaction we will know as the “living water” refreshes and sustains us.

Background: Concluding account of Jesus and the woman at the well
Jesus enters enemy territory and exposed the real enemy.

Introduction: Ever play a game where the object is to figure out the rules? What is said is very plain but there is a key to unlock something richer. Jesus uses ordinary objects/needs to point to deeper matters. Let’s talk about...

I. Water and Food

NOTE: Consistent pattern in John’s gospel – Jesus speaks about his person/work and is misunderstood. Makes further explanation to uncover spiritual realities.

A. The woman and water

1. Solve my problem -Wanted to solution to her embarrassment
2. Had a *much* bigger problem – Sin
Jesus offers...
3. Living Water – permanent solution to her *real* needs/issues

B. The disciples and food (27)

1. Silent questions
- Their prejudices weren’t too far from the surface
2. Rabbi, eat.
- Misunderstanding Jesus: Where did that come from?? (33)

II. Jesus’ Hunger

A. His food (32,34)

1. Food they don’t know about
- Learning to “feed” on Jesus
2. Something they haven’t tasted yet
3. Sharing the water of life, the bread of heaven
- Sharing the good news!
4. Doing the will of his Father
- Echoing Deuteronomy 8:3!
- Accomplishing his work (5:36; 6:38; 6:40)
5. Sustaining him to the end!

B. His satisfaction

- More satisfying than anything the disciples might give him

III. Joining the Harvest

While this exchange has been going on...

A. The woman's field –

1. On a mission! (28-30)
 - She has gone back to town
 - Could this be the Christ, deliverer, promised Messiah?
2. A forgotten jar
 - What about her “thirst”?
3. An effective (faithful!) witness (39-42)
 - Many came and heard for themselves
 - Many believed
4. The savior of the world is Jesus (3:17)

B. Reaping and sowing

While she is off converting, confronting the town

1. The fields are white (35)
 - The harvest is coming
2. A harvest among the Samaritans?
 - Not just for the Jews

For the disciples...

C. An invitation to the harvest

1. The harvest has begun (36-38)
 - It is happening as they speak
2. Reaping will overtake the harvest (Amos 9:13)
 - Reaping what they did not sow?
3. To reap and to sow – the calling of the disciples

IV. Full At Last

A. Jesus

- Partaking only of what fully satisfies
- Living by the word of God
- Satisfied even in suffering and rejection

B. Woman of Samaria

- Finally found something worth living for
- The things of the world would lose their grip on her life
- Bearing fruit – sweet and rich

C. Disciples – Would be evangelists

- Trained and equipped for the harvest
- All would find the gospel to be more than life

D. Believers today

1. You will not find lasting satisfaction in the promises of the world
2. Food that really satisfies??
 - Doing the will of God as found in his word (Matthew 5:6)
3. Get engaged in the work of the harvest