

LESSON 8: APRIL 4, 2018
JOHN 4:31-54

OVERVIEW

- . At the Samaritan well with His disciples – John 4:31-38
- . Jesus' witness to the Samaritans – John 4:39-42
- . Jesus' return to Cana and the healing of the official's son – John 4:43-54

AT THE SAMARITAN WELL WITH HIS DISCIPLES – JOHN 4:31-38

- . "I have food to eat that you know nothing about" – John 4:32
 - . Jesus' response to the disciples when they offered Him something to eat
 - . His response confused them
 - . They were thinking physical food and nourishment whereas Jesus was speaking of spiritual food and nourishment
 - . He was speaking of the nourishment that comes from abiding by His Father's will and seeing the joy in those who seek to follow Him
 - . The unspeakable joy He got from seeing the Samaritan woman surrender herself so completely to God and His will
- . The secret of a satisfied life – John 4:34
 - . Jesus is speaking to His disciples about the deep sense of satisfaction and joy that one can get from choosing to seek His Father's will and be obedient to His calling
 - . There is a sense of gladness that one gets when they know they are surrendering their own selfish desires in order to attend to someone else
 - . Jesus was feeling this sense of joy in knowing He was doing His Father's will
 - . He was especially joyful when He saw His work leading someone to His Father
- . No interval between sowing and reaping – John 4:35
 - . In farming, there is always an interval of time between the sowing and harvest
 - . With the sowing of God's seeds the harvest can be almost immediate, as was the case with the Samaritan woman
- . Wages and eternal fruit – John 4:36
 - . Jesus here was talking of the reward (wages)
 - . The reward that comes from leading someone to salvation gives Jesus the deep staying power in His heart that will ultimately lead to His ability to

- endure the Cross
- . When the disciples came upon Jesus they probably witnessed someone who had been filled with spiritual nourishment that far surpassed anything he could have gotten from food
- . The eternal fruit that Jesus is speaking of is that same nourishment that comes from the joy and satisfaction of doing something that is in compliance with God's will
- . Sowers and reapers – John 4: 37-38
 - . Jesus is telling the disciples that the seeds Jesus is sowing now, the disciples will reap later with followers of Christ
 - . The fruits of salvation that we reap today are the product of the hard work done by those laid the Christian groundwork before us

IESUS' WITNESS TO THE SAMARITANS – JOHN 4:39-42

- . One person's testimony and a whole city's response – John 4:39
 - . It was the outcast woman who introduced Jesus to her people
 - . In order for others to hear, someone needs to preach
 - . A powerful personal witness and testimony can be compelling for others
 - . The woman's words had power because they came from a real living experience
 - . The change in her was convicting
- . Staying to hear the Word of Jesus – John 4:40-41
 - . Once the Samaritans were introduced to Jesus they sought Him for themselves
 - . They took time to be with Him – John 4:40
 - . They asked Him to stay with Them for a few days to help teach them the Word
 - . By staying for two days Jesus helped the Samaritans faith become grounded
- . Believing and receiving the Savior – John 4:42
 - . It's ironic that although salvation was first offered to the Jews, the first large group of people to receive Him were non-Jews
 - . Those who should have been first in line were indifferent while those who were last in line felt deep joy and peace in embracing the Savior

IESUS' RETURN TO CANA AND THE HEALING OF THE OFFICIAL'S SON JOHN 4:43-54

- . Jesus returns to Cana, in Galilee, where he had turned water to wine
 - . There he was greeted by people who had seen Him and His signs while in Jerusalem for the Passover (see John 2)

- . Jesus' meeting with desperate father – John 4:46-47
 - . John mentions this was a royal official without mentioning name
 - . There is some speculation this was Cuza, King Herod's household manager (Luke 8:3), or Manaen, Herod's foster brother (Acts 13:1)
 - . Either way, the nature of his position probably created somewhat of a scene when he appears in Cana
 - . The man pleads with Jesus to come with him to Capernaum to save his son
 - . "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will never believe"
 - . "you people" has a universal, timeless undertone that rings true with people today
 - . Just like in Jesus' day, people today want to see signs, or proof of Christ's authority
 - . Jesus was challenging the man to have faith and to trust his faith
 - . His words were a way of awakening the faith in this man
 - . The man was desperate and wanted Jesus to come with him
 - . The fact that the man approached Jesus with this request is evidence that the man believed Jesus had the power and authority to do what the man was asking
- . Jesus comforts the man and answers the man's prayers and the man believes
 - . After challenging the man he tells him to go, that His son will live
 - . The man listens to Christ's response and accepts his words and leaves
 - . Jesus did not answer the request in the manner it was asked
 - . The man did not sit there and persist that Jesus further explain Himself
 - . The man did not act frustrated or confused
 - . The man choose to believe and trust his faith
 - . Jesus challenged the man to have faith and the man choose to be obedient
 - . The man acted out of faith
- . Faith requires action
 - . Jesus is demonstrating here that faith alone accomplishes nothing without action
 - . The man seeking out Jesus demonstrates his faith in Jesus
 - . Jesus challenges the man to act on his faith, by leaving and heading back to his son, trusting that Jesus heard his pleas and will take care of the situation
- . Jesus heals the son at the exact hour he assures the man his son will live
 - . This not only further confirms to the man Jesus is who he says he is, but it impacts the lives of all those other witnesses to this sign

NEXT LESSON: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2018 – JOHN 5