

(27) Just then His disciples came back. They marveled that He was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or “Why are you talking to her?” So, the woman left her water jar and went away into town and came to the people, “Come see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” They went out of the town and were coming to Him.

(31) Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” But He said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So, the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.

(35) “Do you not say, ‘There are four months then comes the harvest?’ Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Other have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

(39) *Many Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman’s testimony*, “He told me all that I ever did.” So, when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them, and He stayed there two days. *And many more believed because of His word*. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”

Think on these things:

1) How did the woman at the well react to Jesus’ conversation once His disciples returned to the well with His lunch (vs.28-30)?

2) What was more important to Jesus than eating His lunch this day (vs. 32, 34)? Perhaps we could paraphrase v.34 as, “My nourishment in life is to....”

More important? _____

(Finish paraphrase) _____

How does Matthew 6:25-33 contribute to this discussion? _____

3) According to Jesus, when is it a good time to 'reap a harvest' (v.35)? When He speaks about 'reaping a harvest', what do you think this means? Comment on 'sowing & reaping' as it relates to a change of pastors or teachers in the church.

When? _____

Meaning? _____

Sowing & Reaping comment: _____

4) Considering the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13:1-9 and 18-23, is a 'harvest' guaranteed? What did Jesus tell His disciples in John 4:35, 37-38?

Harvest guaranteed? _____

Disciples told? _____

The summary of 'sowing & reaping' is that God may work through one person (like a pastor or an evangelist) to both sow and reap, but more often one sows (God's word) and another later reaps a conversion, a born-again life (people expressing faith in God). Both receive God's reward (v.36).

5) Consider 1 Corinthians 3:1-15. What church problems can arise when God uses different people to reach us for salvation (vs.1-9)? Can you describe the personal benefits for a Christian who lives for God (vs.10-15)?

Problems? _____

Benefits? _____

6) Many Samaritans put their faith in Jesus because of the Samaritan woman's testimony (v.39). After Jesus stayed around for 2 days, what did other people in the town tell her in vs.42-43?

People and situations I want to pray for this week: