

# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

## JOHN 4.27-42



**T. M. Moore**

*A Scriptorium Study*

*And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets,*

*He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Luke 24.27*

**The Fellowship of Ailbe**

The Gospel of John: John 4.27-42  
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## Introduction to *John 4.27-42*

The work of evangelism is a process, involving various stages of bearing witness. A person coming to faith in Jesus Christ can also involve a process of learning about Him and drawing near to Him. Both these processes are illustrated in the story of Jesus' encounter with the woman of Sychar.

There's much for us to learn here as witnesses. If we can lift up our eyes to see the opportunities around us each day, we may be able to sow, cultivate, and reap a harvest in our Personal Mission Field that will see the love of Christ and the presence, promise, and power of His Kingdom becoming the possession of more and more of the people to whom we have been sent.

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## 1 Perspectives

*Read and meditate on John 4.27-30.*

These verses offer two perspectives on Jesus. The disciples are busy with the details of daily life, and not thinking much about mission. The woman has forgotten about the details of daily life, because the mission of Christ has captured her heart and imagination. We need both perspectives, of course.

*<sup>27</sup>At this point, His disciples came, and when they saw Him talking to the woman, then they marveled; yet none said, "What do you seek?" Nor did they ask the Lord, "Why do you speak with her?" <sup>28</sup>The woman left her water pot and went into the city, where she sought the men and said, <sup>29</sup>"Come, see a Man Who told me all things I have done. I wonder: Could this be the Christ?" <sup>30</sup>Then they went out and came to see Him for themselves.*

- John 4.27-30

*Reflect*

1. John tells us that the disciples, upon returning, observed Jesus talking with the woman, but none of them said anything, either to her or to Him. Why do we need to know this? Does this reveal anything about the minds and hearts of the disciples? Complete this prayer: *Lord, make me curious to know as much about You and Your mission as I can, and about the people...*

2. The disciples had gone into the city to purchase some food (v. 8). Now, presumably, they had returned with the food. So what was on their minds? Did they care more about this than about what was going on between Jesus and the woman? Is there a warning here for us? *Lord, please don't let my personal needs or interests cause me to lose sight of...*

3. The disciples had gone to get food, and now they had returned with food, and they're all about wanting to *consume* the food – and to get Jesus to eat with them (v. 31). They are so focused on the details that they seem to have lost sight of the mission, at least for the moment. The woman, on the other hand, has forgotten the details of why she came to the well. Something else has captivated her mind. What? *Lord, help me to keep always in mind that...*

4. I'm not faulting the disciples here, or the woman. In a sense, Christians need to live within both perspectives – like Jesus was. Explain. *Help me, Lord, in the daily details of my life, to...*

5. How would you describe this woman's witness to the men in her city? Was this a complete presentation of the Good News? What was it? What is suggested by the response of the men? Bring together into one the prayers you composed for questions 1-4.

*Summary*

"I think there was a definite purpose why the Evangelist recorded that the woman left her water jar and went into the city. At the literal level, then, this shows the tremendous eagerness of the Samaritan woman, who forsakes her water jar and is more concerned for how she may benefit the multitude than for her more humble duty related to material things. For she was very benevolently moved and wished to announce the

Christ to her fellow citizens by bearing witness to the one who told her ‘all I ever did.’ And she invites them to behold a man whose speech is greater than man, for his appearance to the eye was human. So must we, too, therefore, forgetting things that are more material in nature and leaving them behind, be eager to impart to others the benefit of which we have been partakers. For by recording the woman’s commendation for those capable of reading with understanding, the Evangelist challenges us to this goal.” *Origen of Alexandria (fl. 200-254 AD)*

Christians are a people called to the same mission Jesus had (Jn. 20.21). We cannot allow the details of our daily lives to become separated from our Kingdom-and-glory calling in the Lord (1 Thess. 2.12). How can you be sure to see the mission through the details at all times?

*Closing Prayer*

Examine me, O LORD, and prove me;  
Try my mind and my heart.  
For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes,  
And I have walked in Your truth.  
I have not sat with idolatrous mortals,  
Nor will I go in with hypocrites.  
I have hated the assembly of evildoers,  
And will not sit with the wicked.  
I will wash my hands in innocence;  
So I will go about Your altar, O LORD,  
That I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving,  
And tell of all Your wondrous works.

Psalm 26.2-7

**Psalm 26.1-3, 8-12** (*Aberystwyth: Jesus, Lover of My Soul*)

Vindicate me, Lord on high; I have walked within Your word.  
Never wav’ring, though I sigh, I have trusted You, O Lord!  
Prove me, Lord, prove even me! Test my heart and try my mind.  
Let Your steadfast mercy be in the path for me to find.

Lord, I love Your dwelling place, there where all Your glory shines.  
Keep my soul before Your face, lest for sinful ways it pine.  
As for me, in righteousness I shall walk on level ground;  
Save me, Lord, renew and bless! Let me with Your Church be found!

## 2 The Lord's Food

Read and meditate on John 4.31-34.

The disciples' fixation on their bellies draws a mild rebuke from Jesus. He does not condemn their eating, but He points them beyond their growling tummies to the larger realities of life as a follower of Christ.

*<sup>31</sup>About the same time, His disciples urged Him, saying to Him, "Rabbi, eat."<sup>32</sup> He answered, "I have food to eat of which you do not know."<sup>33</sup> They said to one another, "Who has brought Him bread or anything to eat?"<sup>34</sup> But Jesus to them said, "To do God's will is all My food, and all His work to finish."*

- John 4.31-34

Reflect

1. This food thing is really consuming the disciples. They want Jesus to join them for lunch. Their concern for His nutritional needs is perhaps laudable, but it might be that some other motive is operating here. Explain. Complete this prayer: *Lord, fill the details of my daily life, all my interests and needs, with...*
2. Jesus said the disciples were unacquainted with the "food" that was satisfying Him at that moment. What food was He talking about, and what did He mean by saying the disciples knew nothing of this food? *Lord, help me each day to make sure that I'm feeding...*
3. In what ways is doing God's will and taking up His work a kind of *food*? What does food do for us? How do God's will and work do this? *Increase my appetite, Lord, for...*
4. Verse 33 shows us just how stuck the disciples were on their personal and material needs. Does this ever happen to you? Explain. *I have to eat, Lord, but help me always...*
5. Suppose you could more consistently and more abundantly eat the food that Jesus ate. How would you expect that to help you grow? Bring together into one prayer the prayers you wrote from questions 1-4.

Summary

"Having initiated the conversion of the Samaritans ... Jesus focuses entirely on the salvation of those who are called and has no concern for bodily food, though wearied with his journey. In this way, he encourages the teachers in the churches and persuades them to disregard all fatigue and be more zealous for those who are being saved than caring for their own bodies. For the prophet says, 'Cursed is he who does the work of the Lord with slackness.'" *Cyril of Alexandria (375-444 AD)*

When we are hungry, we usually find something to eat. Like the disciples did. Why do you suppose we aren't as hungry for *Jesus'* food as for the food that fills our bellies?

Closing Prayer

I waited patiently for the LORD;  
And He inclined to me,  
And heard my cry.

He also brought me up out of a horrible pit,  
Out of the miry clay,  
And set my feet upon a rock,  
*And* established my steps.  
He has put a new song in my mouth—  
Praise to our God;  
Many will see *it* and fear,  
And will trust in the LORD.  
Blessed *is* that man who makes the LORD his trust,  
And does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.  
Many, O LORD my God, *are* Your wonderful works  
*Which* You have done;  
And Your thoughts toward us  
Cannot be recounted to You in order;  
*If* I would declare and speak *of them*,  
They are more than can be numbered.  
Sacrifice and offering You did not desire;  
My ears You have opened.  
Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require.  
Then I said, “Behold, I come;  
In the scroll of the book *it is* written of me.  
I delight to do Your will, O my God,  
And Your law *is* within my heart.”

Psalm 40.1-8

**Psalm 40.1-8** (*Dix: For the Beauty of the Earth*)

I waited patiently for God; He inclined and heard my cry,  
Lifted me up above the sod, set me on a Rock on high!  
New songs in my mouth He gave; may He through me many save.

Blessed are all who trust in You, turning both from lies and pride.  
Countless wonders, Lord, You do, and Your thoughts with us abide.  
Lord, who can Your worth declare? None with You can e'er compare.

Offrings You do not require – open now my ears, O Lord –  
What from me do You desire? Firm delight to do Your Word.  
Take my life in ev'ry part; write Your Law upon my heart.

### 3 Lift Up Your Eyes!

Read and meditate on John 4.35.

This single verse is packed with Kingdom significance. By listening to Jesus here, we can learn a great deal about our role as citizens and ambassadors in His realm.

<sup>35</sup>“You will say,  
‘Still there remain four months, then comes the day  
of harvest.’ I say, lift your eyes, and see  
the fields, for they are ripe for harvest!”

- John 4.35

*Reflect*

1. Jesus suggests that *time* in the Kingdom and *time* as the natural world experiences it don't run on the same schedule. How can you see this in the double use He makes of “harvest” here? Complete this prayer:

*Concerning the coming of the Kingdom, Lord, help me to remember that...*

2. Does the coming of the Kingdom of God occur on regular schedules, or according to the same repeated protocols or actions, as does the harvest of a field? Explain. *Lord, help me to be ready for the coming of Your Kingdom every time...*

3. Sometimes we can have it in our minds that things only work a certain way. This can lead to our doubting or denying that the Kingdom can come suddenly, and with abundant evidence. How can you see that Jesus is warning His disciples against allowing their Kingdom calling to be held hostage by *temporal* ways? *Give me faith, Lord, to believe...*

4. The short lesson that Jesus is trying to teach His disciples here is that the Kingdom comes whenever Jesus is making Himself known. Jesus draws people to Himself – like moths to light, the thirsty to a fountain, the hungry to an infinitely satisfying meal, the sick and weak to a trusted physician, the outcast to welcoming arms. What does this suggest about how you should expect the Kingdom to come in your Personal Mission Field? *Lord Jesus, make Yourself known in and through me today, by...*

5. What does it mean for you to “lift up your eyes” today? Do you expect to see fields white for the harvesting? Why or why not? Bring together into one prayer the prayers you wrote for questions 1-4.

*Summary*

“Lift up your eyes’ occurs in many places in Scripture when the divine Word admonishes us to exalt and lift up our thoughts, and to elevate the insight that lies below in a rather sickly condition and is stooped and completely incapable of looking up, as is written for instance in Isaiah, ‘lift up your eyes on high and see. Who has made all these things known?’ ... No one who indulges his passions and clings to the flesh with a concern for material things has observed the command that says, ‘Lift up your eyes.’ Such a person will not see the fields, even if they are ‘already white for harvest.’” *Origen of Alexandria (fl. 200-254 AD)*

What can you do each day to help ensure that you see the *time* of your life, the *details* of your day, and the *harvest* of souls through the Kingdom eyes of Jesus?

*Closing Prayer*

My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness  
And Your salvation all the day,

For I do not know *their* limits.  
I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD;  
I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only.  
O God, You have taught me from my youth;  
And to this *day* I declare Your wondrous works.

Psalm 71.15-17

**Psalm 71.12-16, 3** (*Solid Rock: My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*)

O God, be not too far from me; my ever-present Helper be!  
Consume and shame my enemies; let them reproached and humbled be.  
A Rock of habitation be; command Your Word to rescue me;  
My Rock and Fortress ever be!

But as for me, my voice I raise to sing in hope and constant praise!  
With saving grace my voice will swell Your never-ending grace to tell.  
A Rock of habitation be; command Your Word to rescue me;  
My Rock and Fortress ever be!

## 4 Sowing and Reaping

Read and meditate on John 4.36-38.

The work of evangelism is a *process*, not an *event*. It requires all the followers of Christ to take their place in that work which results in souls being harvested for the Lord. And just as evangelism is a process, so also is *conversion* to Christ, as we will see a bit later.

<sup>36</sup>“He  
who reaps receives his wages, and will gather  
much fruit for everlasting life; together,  
the one who sows and he who reaps will sing  
for joy. <sup>37</sup>For it is true: One sows, one brings  
the harvest. <sup>38</sup>I have sent you all to go  
and reap a harvest that you did not sow.  
For others labored, and you have into  
their labors entered.”

- John 4.36-38

Reflect

1. Why is the image of sowing and reaping such a useful way of thinking about Jesus’ mission and ours? Complete this prayer: *I will have opportunities to sow, today, Lord, and perhaps even to reap. Help me to...*
2. Evangelism is not an *event*. In what ways do we sometimes try to make it an event? How does Jesus’ teaching discourage such thinking? *I need to understand the process of evangelism, Lord, so that...*
3. Today you may be called to do the will and work of God by *sowing* your Personal Mission Field. What would that entail? How do you plan and prepare for sowing your Personal Mission Field, and what are some ways you might do this more consistently? *I want to be a faithful sower, Lord. Help me to...*
4. But there may also be in your Personal Mission Field people whom others have sown and cultivated, and whom the Lord is sending you to for harvesting. What would that look like? Are you ready for this part of God’s will and work? *I want to know when to harvest, Lord, and how, so...*
5. If everyone in your church were actively involved in sowing and reaping, do you think this would have an impact on your community? In what ways? What “rewards” (“wages” v. 26) would you expect your church to receive from such an effort? Bring together into one your prayers from questions 1-4.

Summary

“The spiritual sowing indicates those who tilled beforehand by the voice of the prophets. The multitude of spiritual ears is those brought to the faith that is shown through Christ. But the harvest is white, in other words, already ripe for faith, and confirmed toward a godly life. But the sickle of the reaper is the glittering and sharp word of the apostle, cutting away the hearers from the worship according to the law and transferring them to the floor, that is, to the church of God. There, they are bruised and pressed by good works and shall be set forth as pure wheat worthy of the divine harvest.” *Cyril of Alexandria (375-444 AD)*

Meditate on Matthew 9.35-38. Do you believe the harvest is plentiful? Do you pray regularly for the sowing and reaping of the harvest? As one who has been sent by Lord as He was sent (Jn. 20.21), what are the implications of this for your daily walk with and work for the Lord?

*Closing Prayer*

When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion,  
We were like those who dream.  
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
And our tongue with singing.  
Then they said among the nations,  
“The LORD has done great things for them.”  
The LORD has done great things for us,  
*And* we are glad.  
Bring back our captivity, O LORD,  
As the streams in the South.  
Those who sow in tears  
Shall reap in joy.  
He who continually goes forth weeping,  
Bearing seed for sowing,  
Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing,  
Bringing his sheaves *with him*.

Psalm 126

**Psalm 126** (*Truro: Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns!*)

When God restored our fortunes all,  
We were like those who sweetly dream.  
Our mouths with joy and laughter filled,  
Made Him our constant song and theme.

Then the astonished nations said,  
“The Lord has done great things for them!”  
Indeed, great things our God has done,  
Whose Name we praise, Amen, Amen!

Restore our fortunes, Lord our King!  
Let grace like flowing streams prevail.  
All they with tears of joy shall sing  
Who sow while yet they weep and wail.

They who in tears of sorrow sow  
And cast their seed on every hand,  
With joy shall reach their heav’nly home,  
And bring the harvest of their land.

## 5 Drawn to Jesus

Read and meditate on John 4.39, 40.

You and I cannot convert anyone to Jesus. All we can do, like that Samaritan woman, is report what we know and have experienced of Him, making sure that, in our own lives, the *reality* of Jesus is plain for all to see. Evangelism is a process, but so also is conversion. Folks may see and hear Jesus in us, and be drawn to discover more about Him; but until they see and hear Him by His own Word, they will not believe.

*<sup>39</sup>Many of those who came to Him from the city, when they heard the testimony of the woman's word, believed in Him, because she told them, "He all I have ever done has told to me."*

*<sup>40</sup>So the Samaritans, when they had come to Him, urged Him to stay among them some few days; and He remained there two days.*

- John 4.39, 40

Reflect

1. When did the people of Sychar come out to see Jesus? If all you did this week in your Personal Mission Field was what that woman did in hers, what would you be doing? Complete this prayer: *You have sent me to certain people, Lord. Help me to...*
2. Suppose someone should respond positively to your witness, and perhaps begin to feel drawn to Jesus. What would you do to help that person come into direct contact with Him, like these people from Sychar were trying to do? *I need to be prepared, Lord, for people to want to learn about You. Teach me how...*
3. This woman *testified* about her experience of Jesus, and what she *knew* of Him. But she also *invited* or *challenged* the people of her village to *come see for themselves* (cf. v. 29). In a brief outline, jot down what you *know* about Jesus, what you might *testify* of your experience of Him, and how you would *invite* or *challenge* someone to have a look for themselves. *I know I need to be ready like that Samaritan woman to...*
4. Remember: Samaritans and Jews had no dealings with one another. But look how the people of Sychar responded to Jesus. Is it reasonable to expect that people today might be more open to Jesus than we think? That they might be more interested in talking about Him than we suppose? Explain. *Lord, don't let me prejudge the people to whom You have sent me. Instead...*
5. Summarize what you think the disciples must have been learning from this whole situation. Bring together your prayers from questions 1-4 into one prayer.

Summary

“John has not written that the Samaritans ‘asked him’ to enter Samaria or to enter the city but ‘to remain with them.’ ... In what follows he does not say, ‘And he remained in that city two days’ or ‘he remained in Samaria’ but ‘he remained there,’ that is, with those who asked. For Jesus remains with those who ask, and especially when those who ask him come out of their city and come to Jesus, as if in imitation of Abraham when he obeyed God who said, ‘Go forth out of your country and from your kindred, and out of your father’s house.’” *Origen of Alexandria (fl. 200-254 AD)*

There is a danger today that many Christians have concluded that the fields are *not* white unto harvest, that people are *not* open to hearing about Jesus, and that it's no use *sowing the Word of Christ* into their lives. If they're interested in Jesus, they'll come to our church. How does Jesus' experience and teaching at Sychar rebut these ideas?

*Closing Prayer*

You visit the earth and water it,  
You greatly enrich it;  
The river of God is full of water;  
You provide their grain,  
For so You have prepared it.  
You water its ridges abundantly,  
You settle its furrows;  
You make it soft with showers,  
You bless its growth.  
You crown the year with Your goodness,  
And Your paths drip *with* abundance.  
They drop *on* the pastures of the wilderness,  
And the little hills rejoice on every side.  
The pastures are clothed with flocks;  
The valleys also are covered with grain;  
They shout for joy, they also sing.

Psalm 65.9-13

**Psalm 65.9-13, 4** (*Moody: Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord*)

You cause Your blessings to overflow; training the ground, You make the grain grow.  
Greatly enriched by Your sovereign grace, waters of blessing fill every place!  
Blessed are all who chosen by You in Your courts shall dwell.  
Keep us near You, and let Your goodness content us well.

Glorious rain fills each ridge and row; showers of blessing rich You bestow.  
You have the year with Your bounty crowned; wealth in abundance drips all around!  
Blessed are all who chosen by You in Your courts shall dwell.  
Keep us near You, and let Your goodness content us well.

Pastures abound in the wilderness; girded with joy, the hillsides You bless.  
Meadows and valleys with joy shall sing as You their flocks and their harvests bring!  
Blessed are all who chosen by You in Your courts shall dwell.  
Keep us near You, and let Your goodness content us well.

## 6 Evangelism and Conversion

*Read and meditate on John 4.41, 42.*

The people of Samaria show us that coming to Jesus can require more than a testimony or a single witness. They may need time with Him, to get to know Him and hear His Word for themselves. Conversion is a process, just like evangelism, as hearts are gradually softened toward the Lord Who woos them.

*<sup>41</sup>And*

*then many more, who came to understand His Word, believed in Him. <sup>42</sup>They said unto the woman, "We believe in Him now, too, and not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him, and we know indeed that this Man is the Christ, the Savior of the world."*

- John 4.41, 42

*Reflect*

1. Many of the Samaritans believed because of the testimony of the woman (v. 39). But "many more" believed "because of His own word" (v. 41). What makes the Word of Jesus so powerful in converting people to the Lord? Complete the following brief prayer: *Lord, I trust in Your Word. Help me to trust it as...*
2. Notice that those who believe in Jesus immediately testify concerning their faith. How would saying this to the woman, and to one another, have helped in firming up their faith? *People who know You, Lord, need to talk about You with one another. Help me to encourage my fellow believers to...*
3. Are people today looking to someone or something to "save" the world? What would be some examples of what people hope in for such "salvation"? Do you think this feeling is widespread? Do people in your Personal Mission Field have such hope? *I'd like to know the answer to this last question, Lord, so help me...*
4. Our witness for Christ must include the words of Jesus Himself – not necessarily just words He spoke in the gospels, but *all* the Word of Christ in Scripture. What Scriptures would you use to help someone hear the words of Jesus? *Guide me in answering this question, Lord. Show me some Scriptures that will help me...*
5. This whole wonderful situation began with Jesus seeking a single person. He went out of His way to encounter her, and everything else resulted from that. Jesus sought lost people. Should we? What should being a seeker of lost people look like in your life? What role should prayer have in this? How do you envision this coming about, and with what kind of results? Bring together into one prayer the prayers you composed from questions 1-4.

*Summary*

"They acknowledge Christ not just as one of the many Christs but as the Savior. And yet, who did they see who had been saved at this point? They had only heard his words, and yet they spoke as though they had seen all these great and wonderful miracles. Why, then, don't the Evangelists tell us what these words were and how admirably he spoke? By not doing so, they show that they pass over many important matters, and yet, by reporting the event itself, they lead us to understand everything. For he persuaded an entire people and a whole city by his words alone!" *John Chrysostom (344-404 AD)*

How would you describe Jesus' mission to earth as we have seen it thus far in the Gospel of John? Why was He sent? Meditate on John 20.21. What are the implications of this for your life? How are you working to

fulfill this high and holy calling?

*Closing Prayer*

Your mercy, O LORD, *is* in the heavens;  
Your faithfulness *reaches* to the clouds.  
Your righteousness *is* like the great mountains;  
Your judgments *are* a great deep;  
O LORD, You preserve man and beast.  
How precious *is* Your lovingkindness, O God!  
Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings.  
They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house,  
And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures.  
For with You *is* the fountain of life;  
In Your light we see light.

Psalm 36.5-9

**Psalm 36.5-9** (*Landas: My Faith Has Found a Resting Place*)

Your lovingkindness, Lord, is great, it reaches heav'n above;  
Your faithfulness mounts to the skies, and keeps us in Your love.  
Your righteousness like mountains high and judgment like the deep  
Preserve Your creatures one and all and in Your mercy keep.

How precious is Your love, O Lord; we shelter in Your wings.  
We drink refreshment to the full from Your abundant springs.  
You give us freely of Your grace, we drink it with delight;  
Life's fountain is with You, O Lord, in Your light we see light.

## 7 Gospel Power

Read and meditate on John 4.27-42.

Jesus came to proclaim the Good News of salvation and the Kingdom of God. Evidently, this Good News was very powerful. It still is today.

*27*At this point, His disciples came, and when they saw Him talking to the woman, then they marveled; yet none said, "What do you seek?" Nor did they ask the Lord, "Why do you speak with her?" *28*The woman left her water pot and went into the city, where she sought the men and said, *29*"Come, see a Man Who told me all things I have done. I wonder: Could this be the Christ?" *30*Then they went out and came to see Him for themselves. *31*About the same time, His disciples urged Him, saying to Him, "Rabbi, eat." *32*He answered, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." *33*They said to one another, "Who has brought Him bread or anything to eat?" *34*But Jesus to them said, "To do God's will is all My food, and all His work to finish. *35*You will say, 'Still there remain four months, then comes the day of harvest.' I say, lift your eyes, and see the fields, for they are ripe for harvest! *36*He who reaps receives his wages, and will gather much fruit for everlasting life; together, the one who sows and he who reaps will sing for joy. *37*For it is true: One sows, one brings the harvest. *38*I have sent you all to go and reap a harvest that you did not sow. For others labored, and you have into their labors entered." *39*Many of those who came to Him from the city, when they heard the testimony of the woman's word, believed in Him, because she told them, "He all I have ever done has told to me." *40*So the Samaritans, when they had come to Him, urged Him to stay among them some few days; and He remained there two days. *41*And then many more, who came to understand His Word, believed in Him. *42*They said unto the woman, "We believe in Him now, too, and not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him, and we know indeed that this Man is the Christ, the Savior of the world."

- John 4.27-42

*Reflect*

1. Why is the Gospel *Good News*? What's *Good* about it? How do you experience this Good News each day? Complete this prayer: *Help me, Lord, to see the people in my life as people who need You, whether they are nonbelievers or...*
2. From this story, we learn many lessons about how people come to embrace the Good News of Jesus. First, someone must *go* to them. In our day, we seem to expect "seekers" to find their way to church, if they're interested in Jesus. Or we try to draw them there in a variety of ways. How well does this approach to proclaiming the Good News comport with what we see in Jesus? *Lord, I want my church to be a seeking church, not a seekers' church. Help me...*
3. What would you include in the *process* of evangelism – the steps involved in making Jesus known? *Lord, how can I make these steps...*
4. What seems to be involved in the *process* of someone coming to believe in Jesus? Think about the woman, then think about her neighbors. What "steps" can you identify? Is it possible that some of the people in your Personal Mission Field are involved in that process? How would you know? *Lord, show me how I can learn...*
5. The Gospel is not about us. It's not even ultimately about what Jesus has done for us. It's about Jesus. Explain. Bring together into one prayer the prayers you composed for questions 1-4.

*Summary*

"Notice how soon they arrived at the understanding that he had come for the deliverance of the whole world and could not therefore confine his purposes to the Jews but must sow the Word everywhere.... Their saying too, 'The Savior of the world,' implies that they looked on this world as miserable and lost. They saw that whereas prophets and angels had come to save it, this was the only real Savior, the author not only of temporal but eternal salvation.... And notice how the woman had spoken doubtfully, 'Is not this the Christ?' But they do not say, 'We suspect' but 'We know' that this is indeed the Savior of the world." *John Chrysostom (344-404 AD)*

Suppose you were asked to use this story to teach a brief lesson on being a witness for Christ. What are the most important points you would emphasize?

*Closing Prayer*

All the ends of the world  
Shall remember and turn to the LORD,  
And all the families of the nations  
Shall worship before You.  
For the kingdom *is* the LORD's,  
And He rules over the nations.

Psalm 22.27, 28

**Psalm 22.26-28** (*Darwall: Rejoice, the Lord is King*)

The suffering King shall eat and praise with us the Lord.  
Forever we His praise repeat and trust His Word.  
Praise God above, all you who keep His vows and who His mercies love!

All nations shall repent and hasten to the Lord;  
All those to whom His truth is sent shall praise His Word.  
The Lord is King! His sovereign rule on high now we His people sing!!

*The Gospel of John: John 4.27-42*

*Questions for reflection or discussion*

1. What do we mean by saying that evangelism is a process and not an event?
2. Conversion is also a process. How can you see that process at work in your own coming to the Lord?
3. Explain the place of seeking, sowing, and reaping in the work of disciples?
4. Jesus fed on the will and work of the Father. What was that will and work?
5. What's the most important lesson you've learned from John 4.27-42? How are you putting that lesson to work in your walk with and work for the Lord?

*Items for prayer:*

## The Fellowship of Ailbe

The Fellowship of Ailbe is a spiritual fellowship in the Celtic Christian tradition. Our goal is to promote revival, renewal, and awakening, following the teaching of Scripture and the example and heritage of our forebears in the faith.

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We hope you found this study helpful. If so, please consider making a gift to The Fellowship. You can contribute to our ministry by using the donate button at the website, or by sending your gift to The Fellowship of Ailbe, 19 Tyler Dr., Essex Junction, VT 05452.

Thank you.