

The Joys of Serving the Lord

John 4:25-38

The Revelation of Jesus Christ (John 4:25-26) Every believer in Jesus Christ, has had Jesus revealed to them. Someone has shared the gospel to you and the Holy Spirit has confirmed in your heart that this is true. Jesus makes it known to the woman at the well, that He is indeed the Messiah. Jesus will go on to claim this in many other forms. The “I am” statements found in the Gospel of John are that: He is the bread of life (6:35), the light of the world (8:12), the door (10:7), the good shepherd (10:11, 14), the resurrection and the life (11:25), the way the truth and the life (14:6) and the true vine (15:1).

The Woman’s Response (John 4:27-30) The lady’s response to leave her physical task, in order to inquire upon a spiritual eternity is the reaction we should all have when confronted with the message of the gospel. When the gospel is presented there are three possible responses: 1. Yes, I believe, 2. No, I don’t believe, and 3. Maybe, allow me to inquire or investigate. I had a young Jewish college student come to me and tell me that He was going to read through the Torah (First 5 books of the Old Testament) and the Psalms, and Isaiah. He was going to read those scriptures and pray about whether or not Jesus was the Messiah. I thought about Romans 10:17, “Faith comes through hearing the message, and the message is the Word of God.” In my mind I knew God had this whole thing rigged. At the end of the school year, He told me that he was now a believer in Jesus Christ simply because of the Old Testament, and would now follow Him as a New Testament believer in Christ.

- a. The message of Christ is more important than the culture. (John 4:27) He was talking to a Samaritan woman, a cultural no no.
- b. The message of Christ is more immediate than our careers. (John 4:28) She left her livelihood, her physical need for the living water of Jesus Christ!
- c. The message of Christ is more interesting than other concerns. (John 4:29-30) The gospel is the greatest message of all of humanity. When people are truly thirsty, they will come to drink. I’m currently seeing a lot of thirst for Christ in the military more than I ever have before.

The Disciples’ Physical Reaction (John 4:31-34) Mankind is always thinking about the physical instead of the spiritual. We’d rather try the newest fad or church trend, than to pray and evangelize the lost. Nothing is new, it was happening here as well. Jesus used this opportunity to teach his disciples that being truly satisfied is not to have your physical needs met, but to be truly satisfied in doing what God has created us to do, glorify Him! In fact, this is similar to what He quoted to Satan: ***“man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.”*** Jesus quoted

Moses' declaration that is recorded in Deut. 8:3. When we serve Jesus, we are operating in our designed use! Cars are meant for the road, a plane for the sky, and you and I were meant to make much of Almighty God, our Creator! Psalm 150:6 states it best: **“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!”** He has commanded and commissioned us to proclaim the gospel to every part of the world! Our fears, which often times are based on the physical, paralyze us from doing the spiritual. Let's trust in the Lord, for He is more than able to do what He has called us to. Isn't He able, can't He do it, Isn't He good?

The Results of Serving The Lord (John 4:35-36) There is nothing more satisfying than serving Christ! My prayer as your pastor is that you use your vocation to make much of Jesus Christ and to make disciples for Jesus Christ in your workplace. The last part of verse 36 is the rejoicing part, “so that sower and reaper may **rejoice** together.” Listen to what Albert Barnes says about this passage: “It is a united work. It matters little whether we sow the seed or whether we reap the harvest. It is part of the same work, and whatever part we may do, we should rejoice. God gives the increase, while Paul may plant and Apollos water. The teacher in the Sunday school, who sows the seed in early life, shall rejoice with the minister of the gospel who may gather in the harvest, and both join in giving all the praise to God.” We know of Billy Graham, maybe one of the most well-known evangelists in America's recent history. We're thankful for the invite of Albert McMakin. Albert McMakin, who worked on the Graham farm, persuaded him to go see evangelist Mordecai Ham. According to his autobiography, Graham was 16 when he was converted during a series of revival meetings that Ham led in Charlotte in 1934. Mordecai Ham was influenced by D.L. Moody and Billy Sunday, but it all started because a Sunday School Teacher, named Edward Kimball, led D.L. Moody to Christ! The rejoicing we must have in the work of Christ. I truly believe that problems arise in a church when we lose our focus of reaching the lost for Christ. Luke 15:10 **“Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”**

The Reproduction that Occurs from Serving the Lord (John 4:37-38) What did Jesus tell us in Luke 10:2? “And he said to them, **“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”** Here is the promise that Jesus presents to us in Matthew 24:14 **“And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”** We have the privilege of being used by God in the sowing and reaping of believers! God could have snapped His fingers and saved us, but He allows us to be a part of this reproductive process so that we would see the hand of God, the power of God, and the pleasure that only God can bring to those who are serving Him! We will rejoice when people come to Christ! We will rejoice when people grow in Christ! We will rejoice when people go to the mission field and serve Christ!