



Gospel of John 1-12

The Harvest

Jesus has given us an example of cross cultural ministry in John 4. In this passage we see the wonderful results of sowing and reaping in unlikely places.

A. The Witness vv. 27-30

1. Cross cultural marvel: The disciples marvel at what is to be the norm—go ye unto ALL the world. (*Matt 28:19-20*)

2. You forgot something! How amazing that the woman is so excited that she leaves the water pot behind. Knowing Christ can be a life-changing and life-turning event.

3. Use of curiosity: [*vv. 29-30*] Notice that she tells the city what happened to her and then asks a question. The question—rather than a statement draws the hearers into the conversation. As a result—the city ‘came to Him,’ He did not have to go to the city!

B. The Food vv. 31-34

1. Witnessing as food: Wow—you mean witnessing takes away my hunger? Food here is used as a metaphor for doing the will of God. The Father has sent the Son into the world that the world might be saved through Him. Have we also been sent?

What is God’s will for us? *See Matt 28:19-20*

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...”

C. The Field vv. 35-38

1. What do you see? Is it possible that we are walking through fields ready for harvest but do not see the harvest? Jesus says to ‘lift up your eyes.’ The word here can also mean to ‘discern’—using discernment to see what God sees. Those who ‘discern’ will see that the field is ‘white’ unto harvest—ready to be picked. By extension this is the discernment to know when someone is ready to receive Christ as Saviour.

2. A cooperative venture: [*vv. 36-38*] It’s as if Jesus is saying, “Come on guys—let’s work together and get this harvest in.” There is NO competition here—we’re working for ‘eternal’ fruit. And we’re working for the same boss, “I sent you...”

D. The Harvest vv. 39-42

1. Bring them to Jesus: The theme of this section is the simple truth that we must bring those who we witness to—to Jesus. Some believed because of the woman’s testimony but ultimately Jesus was the determining factor for salvation.

2. Hearing Jesus: [*vs. 42*] How can we hear Jesus? We hear Him through His Word and believe—have faith in Him!

*“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?
And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?*

*And how shall they hear without a preacher?
And how shall they preach, except they be sent?”*

Rom 10:14-15

John 4:27-42 (NKJV)

—**27** And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, “What do You seek?” or, “Why are You talking with her?”

28 The woman then left her water pot, went her way into the city, and said to the men,

29 “Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?”

30 Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

—**31** In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”

32 But He said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.”

33 Therefore the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?”

34 Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

—**35** Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest?’ Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!

36 And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.

37 For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’

38 I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.”

—**39** And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I ever did.”

40 So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days.

41 And many more believed because of His own word.

42 Then they said to the woman, “Now we **believe**, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.”