

# “The Gospel of John: It’s a Team Sport”

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## Scripture

### John 4:31-42

“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 were saying to one another, “No one brought Him anything to eat, did he?” 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 yet four months, and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, **lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest.**”

36“Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that **he who sows, and he who reaps may rejoice together.** “For in this case the saying is true, One sows and another reaps.’ “**I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”**

39From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all the things that I have done.” So, when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days.

41**Many more believed because of His word;** and they were saying to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and **know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world.**”

## Overview of the Gospels

- **Matthew** -> **Jewish flavor to the writing, portraying Jesus as the Christ and King**
- **Mark** -> **Jesus as the “Son of Man”, really Peter’s Gospel for the Gentiles**
- **Luke** -> **Jesus is Human and the Redeemer of Humanity**
- **John** -> **Jesus is the Divine “Son of God”**

## Why Write the Gospel?

Matthew, Mark and Luke’s Gospels were already around. Why another one?

## The Purpose for John’s Gospel

### John 20:30-31

“Therefore, **many other signs Jesus also performed** in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

But these have been written **so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God;** and that **believing** you may have life in His name.”

Many events in John not recorded elsewhere

- We Saw God the Father Set a Divine Appointment for Jesus
- We Saw Jesus Interact with the Woman Crossing Many Cultural Boundaries
- We Learned that Samaritans Must be part of the Lost Sheep of Israel
- We Saw Jesus Teach the Woman about Spiritual Life and Say that He was the Messiah
- We Saw Her Belief in Jesus and have Her Anger Turned to Joy
- We Saw Her Reaction and the Desire to go Tell her village about the Messiah

### It's a Team Sport

Jesus sent His disciples away so He could be 1 on 1 with the Woman

Evangelism and Discipleship best applied one on one

**But Success is not an individual achievement**

### Food For Thought?

#### John 4:31-34

"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 were saying to one another, "No one brought Him anything to eat, did he?" Jesus said to them, "**My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.**"

The disciples seek to give Jesus some of the food they have retrieved from Sychar

Jesus has other things in mind – **there's still work to be done today!**

"I have food to eat that you do not know about" -> I'm not motivated by physical food at the moment

He has other motivations – another focus that satisfies greater than physical food -> **Ministry!**

**Have you ever been SO passionate about something that you're doing that you forget to eat?**

Your mind is completely focused on the task at hand

"No one brought Him anything to eat, did he?" -> **the disciples are confused!**

- Just like Nicodemus was confused about being born from above
- Just the Woman at the Well was confused about living water

"My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and **to accomplish His work.**"

The disciples do not understand Jesus is talking about spiritual food

They learn He's not talking about the earthly food that they have but spiritual food.

### Deuteronomy 8:2-3

"You shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. **"He humbled you and let you be hungry and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD."**

True spiritual food are the words from God → **God commanded manna to come to feed His people**

**Jesus quoted this verse** when tempted by the devil in the wilderness for 40 days! (**Matthew 4:4**)

### Revelation 2:17

"To him who overcomes, to him **I will give some of the hidden manna**, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it."

Jesus told Peter, "**Feed My Sheep**" in John 21 -> it is the 5<sup>th</sup> sign in the book I wrote

Jesus was getting ministry direction from the Father

**Greater satisfaction will come from fruitful ministry than any great meal**

**What was Jesus's mission on the Earth?**

### John 6:38-40

"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. **"This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing but raise it up on the last day."**

"For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and **I Myself will raise him up on the last day.**"

**Jesus was focused on the Father's mission and adopted it as His own**

### Harvest Is Here!

#### John 4:35

"Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, **lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest.**"

The interaction with the Woman is probably in January -> four months away from a spring harvest time

If the crop was planted in November, the grain would be sprouting up in the valley

Jesus tells them to **look up** -> **up the hill a half-mile toward Sychar** -> **they would see white?**

What crop is white?



This is the grain at harvest time at En-Dor near Mount Tabor in Israel.

Barley harvest would start around April 15th

Wheat harvest would start later around late-May to early June

It is not the physical crop that Jesus is referencing

What would be white?

The clothes of the people of Sychar coming out to meet Jesus

Their clothes, moving up and down as they walked, looks like white tops to the grain that was sprouting up

Jesus says you're thinking about earthly things - but I'm talking about heavenly things

It's not a physical harvest but a spiritual harvest -> look at all these people coming out to meet the Messiah!

### Reaping What You Didn't Sow

#### John 4:36-38

"Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that **he who sows, and he who reaps may rejoice together**.

"For in this case the saying is true, One sows and another reaps.' "I **sent you to reap that for which you have not labored**; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

You get wages for reaping if you are harvesting -> migrant workers come in and help with the harvest?

That's a normal activity when farming -> they reap -> they weren't there when the seeds went into the ground

But those who sow also get benefit from the crop and they rejoice together

"I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored"

Jesus sent the Disciples to reap where they had not labored before

Who planted seeds into the men of Sychar?

Who watered the seeds in the men of Sychar?

The Woman who dropped everything to go and tell the men about the Messiah

She piqued their interest in the Messiah so much that they left their town and walked half a mile to the Well

Paul gave an example of this to the Corinthians:

### 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

“What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. **I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.** So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. Now he who plants, and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. **For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.**”

Paul says that he planted seeds in the Corinthians, but Apollos came along and watered -> both were teaching

God is **the Ultimate Cause** of any growth in the flock

### So, what do we learn from this?

We shouldn't have any notches on our bibles for when we lead someone to Christ

God is already working on them, and others have, most likely, planted seeds and watered

If someone comes to faith in Jesus in front of us -> GREAT -> but a lot of others have been working on the soil

So, **if we share Jesus with someone** and they completely reject it -> we may be planting seeds or watering

**Do not get discouraged but simply put in more prayer time for that individual and ask God to send someone else to water and provide a little more **Sonlight****

### Samaritan Sunrise

#### John 4:39-42

“From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all the things that I have done.” So, when the Samaritans came to Jesus, **they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days.**

41**Many more believed because of His word;** and they were saying to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and **know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world.**”

“many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified”

John recognizes that the Woman was a key factor in bringing Sychar to Jesus

The people of Sychar wanted Jesus (**a Jew!**) to stay and He dedicated two days to them

Reminds me of the Road to Emmaus story from Luke 24 -> **Jesus explains about Himself from the Scriptures**

**Luke 24:27-29 (Road to Emmaus)**

“Then **beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.** And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther. But they urged Him, saying, “**Stay with us**, for it is getting toward evening, and the day is now nearly over.” So, He went in to stay with them.”

When Jesus is explaining God to true believers, they don't want Him to leave

We see that here with the people of Sychar:

“It is no longer because of what [the woman] said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and **know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world.**”

Last week -> **Come and See Jesus**

This week -> **Come and Stay Jesus!**

We just need to bring words of Jesus to the people and let Him do the personal work in them

This closes the story of the Woman at the Well and the Samaritans

“for we have heard for ourselves and **know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world.**”

The Samaritan people became another group of witnesses for John the Jesus was God

They proclaim Him as “the Savior of the World”

**Prayer**

**Schaeffers**

**Benediction**