



JOHN 4:27-42

ARE YOU HUNGRY?

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SERMON NOTES: John 4:27-42

The first step in “Finding ME”: Realize I’m not God: I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and my life is unmanageable. (Romans 7:14-25)

The second step in “Finding ME”: Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me. (Romans 8:1-17)

The third step in “Finding ME”: Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ’s care and control. (Romans 12:1-2)

The fourth step in “Finding ME”: Openly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust. (Romans 12:3; 1 Timothy 1:12-17)

The fifth step in “Finding ME”: Voluntarily submit to every change God wants to make in my life and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects. (Romans 12:9-21)

The sixth step in “Finding ME”: Evaluate all my relationships. Offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and make amends for harm I’ve done to others, except when to do so would harm them or others. (Romans 13:8-10)

The seventh step in “Finding ME”: Reserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in order to know God and His will for my life and to gain the power to follow His will. (Romans 13:11-14)

The eighth step in “Finding ME”: Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and by my words. (John 4:27-42)

John 4:27-42

²⁷ Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?” ²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹ “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” ³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

ARE YOU AWARE OF THOSE AROUND YOU?

- What did the disciples see? **Nothing**
- What did Jesus see? **Opportunity**

John 4:31-38

³¹ Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.” ³³ Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?” ³⁴ “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.” ³⁵ Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. ³⁶ Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. ³⁷ Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. ³⁸ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

THERE IS A HARVEST WAITING TO BE GATHERED

- The Samaritan woman is heading back, and her friends are with her. **They are the fields that are ripe for a harvest.**
- **They may be very different from you.**
- **They may be very much like you.**

John 4:39-42

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers. ⁴² They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

DO YOU HAVE AN APPETITE FOR THE WORK OF GOD?

- Those around us are looking for the love and concern of Jesus to be **expressed**.
- Now is not the time for a **Diet!!!**

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE: JOHN 4:27-42

OPENING

- Read John 4:1-26

GOING DEEPER

- In John 4:27 it appears the disciples have little interest in communicating with the Samaritan woman. Why do you think this is the case? Consider the following Rabbinic traditions:
 - *Let no one talk with a woman on the street, no not with his own wife.*
 - *Better that the words of the Law be burned than to be shared with a woman.*
 - And a Thanksgiving prayer offered at a service in a synagogue, *“Blessed art Thou, O Lord . . . that Thou hast not made me a woman.*

Leaders Note: A cultural divide, as well as a gender gap, probably informed the disciples’ reaction. John records the fact that “Jews do not associate with Samaritans.” (John 4:9) This division may be traced back to tensions that arose under King David and King Solomon between the 10 northern tribes of Israel and the two southern tribes of Judah. After Solomon’s death, the tribes divided into two kingdoms, Israel in the north and Judah in the south. After the kingdoms divided, the northern king, Jeroboam set up separate places of worship so that his people would not have to travel to Jerusalem. (1 Kings 12:25-33) So we hear the woman at the well saying, “Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” (John 4:20)

- Read John 4: 35-38

The harvest refers to those coming from the nearby town. How aware are you of the potential harvest around you? Do you have anyone in your circles that are expressing an interest in spiritual things?

Leaders Note: In verse 35, Jesus refers to a common saying of the day, “It’s still four months until harvest”. This common proverb seems to indicate that you can’t rush the harvest. You can’t reap until the grain is

fully matured. Jesus wishes to make the point that we do not have to wait until the harvest is ready. The grain is ready to be gathered.

- How comfortable are you in sharing what God is doing in your life? What are some of the obstacles that keep you from sharing your faith with others?

Leaders Note: Be aware that not everyone is an extrovert, ready to take up a conversation with a stranger regarding Christ. People may also feel ill-equipped to answer difficult questions about our faith. However, we can each be ready to tell our personal story of how God rescued us. If we are willing to do so, we should be able to tell this story in various conversations with others, whether we know them well or not.

CHALLENGE:

- Create a list of those in your sphere of contacts and pray for them from now till Easter. Ask God for an opportunity to share your faith story with them. Invite them to join you for an Easter service.

Leaders Note: You may wish to ask the members of your group whether they wish to be held accountable to their commitment to share their story or invite others to the Easter service. This voluntary willingness to be held accountable may provide the added boost that we need to turn our well-intentioned desires into action.