

## John 4:27-45

*27 Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?"*

27 Their holy master was alone with a woman at a well, and to make it even worse, she is a Samaritan with a bad reputation. But they seem afraid to ask why. They are about to find out why! We should expect people to misunderstand our motives.

*28 So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people,*  
28 Left the jar for them to use... or left it out of shock at what she had heard... or more likely it is symbolic of her finding her spiritual thirst met in Jesus was more important than any physical need.

*29 "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?"<sup>30</sup> They went out of the town and were coming to him.*

29,30 The Chosen draws from this verse having Jesus tell her about each of her five husbands. That's possible, but I think she meant He made her realize that her whole life was seeking to quench the spiritual thirst within.

*31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, "Rabbi, eat."<sup>32</sup> But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."*

31,32 Jesus was again using the physical to describe the spiritual. He is focused on what is about to happen, winning a city to Himself, laying the groundwork for Philip's revival after the ascension. We too have food to eat that others cannot see. It is to do God's will which is more fulfilling than any physical necessity. What is your food?  
Deuteronomy 8:3

*33 So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?"<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.*

33,34 *As the Father has sent me even so send I you.* John 20:21 To do and accomplish the will of the Father alone! Lord, put it in our hearts. Birth, water, and now food all metaphors for spiritual realities.

*35 Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.*

35 It normally takes four months from planting to harvest, but the kingdom has come and the reaper follow on the heels of the sower. Opportunities are all around us, and when they present themselves, we must be ready to drop everything else, even food, and harvest. David Witt presented this as looking to the spiritual plane instead of the physical. What is God doing? The Samaritans wear white on their feast days. Perhaps this was one such day and they were all coming in their white robes. Do you see hungry hearts around you that are ready for harvest?

*<sup>36</sup> Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.*

36 The Father will reward us for our labor, and we have the souls as eternal fruit from our labors. It is a joint effort. Philip will do more reaping Acts 8:5-8. Jesus is sowing for that harvest, and the fruit belongs to all who have labored in that field.

*<sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."*

37,38 We should be aware that we are just instruments God works through and that others have gone before us. All glory to God. One sows, another waters, but God makes it grow (1 Corinthians 3:7). The average number of times one is influenced toward Christ before they make a decision is about seven times.

*<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.*

39,40 When one soul comes into the kingdom, the repercussions can reach thousands of people. That is because we all heard from someone and we will tell others and so the growth is exponential when we are yielded to God. Isn't it amazing that God used this rejected woman to bring a town to salvation! God uses the ones we would never expect so that He gets all the glory. Think of Paul and Matthew. How about you?

*<sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."*

41,42 When they heard Jesus speak, they knew He was the One. These are the first people to declare Jesus as the Savior of the world. If John were making this up, he certainly would not have had Samaritans to be the first.

*<sup>43</sup> After the two days he departed for Galilee. <sup>44</sup> (For Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in his own hometown.)*

43,44 Not Nazareth. Jesus was no longer accepted in His hometown because of they found His teaching unacceptable. He has moved to Peter's home in Capernaum.

*<sup>45</sup> So when he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, having seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the feast. For they too had gone to the feast.*

45 Other than cleansing the temple, Jesus must have done some miracles that caused them to believe He was a prophet. Capernaum was not as religious as Nazareth and welcomed Jesus.

## Questions

What had just happened in the preceding verses?

Why were the disciples surprised to see Jesus with the woman?

What does leaving her jar behind indicate?

What is your food?

Why would the town listen to her?

What makes their declaration to Jesus upside down from the world's ways?

What did you connect with in the story?

What did you learn about God?