



John 4:31-42, Lesson#14

What is your goal in life? Do you long for peace and tranquility? Do you just want to be happy, pay your bills, and take care of your family? Do you know where this life will take you? Do you know why you were brought into this world?

The source of Jesus' strength, His goal in life, and fulfillment for living is revealed in the following verses.

John 4:31-34, In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." Therefore, the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."

- **"I have food to eat of which you do not know":** The disciples went into the Samaritan village to get food...and wanted Jesus to eat what they brought to Him.
 - ✓ It is understandable for the spiritual man to forget his hunger, but it is equally right and understandable that loyal friends should remind him that he ought to eat for his health's sake.
 - ✓ Jesus wasn't saying that food and drink and rest are not important. Instead, He wanted His disciples to know that life was more than those things; that man does not eat by bread alone.
 - ✓ "The pronouns are emphatic: *I* am refreshed by nourishment that has not been yet revealed to you (disciples had not been told about the Holy Spirit's workings)"
 - ✓ In these words, our Lord revealed the secret of His strength.
 - Jesus had a greater source of strength and fulfillment than the food he ate. His true goal and fulfillment in this life was **to do the will** of His God and Father.

This is a contrast between Jesus and Satan.

- ✓ Jesus primary focus was not on his work, the need of the community around him, the strategy and techniques to meet His goal, or even the souls of the lost around Him.
- ✓ Jesus' foremost focus was on doing **the will of Him who sent Me.**
- ✓ Satan, however, is the ultimate example of God's creation who did not want the will of God, but asserted his will against God's will. "My will, my satisfaction, my way or no way!"

Isaiah 14:12-15, "How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.[1] I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit."

Note: DOING THE WILL OF GOD. The experience of countless others through the centuries has proved Jesus true in this statement. There is nothing more gratifying and satisfying than doing the will of God, whatever that is for the particular believer. Though this is against our natural self-seeking, it is true.

"The man of the world thinks that, if he could have his own way, he would be perfectly happy, and his dream of happiness in this state or in the next is comprised in this, that his own wishes will be gratified, his own longings fulfilled, his own desires granted to him. This is all a mistake. A man will never be happy in this way." (Spurgeon)

- **"And to finish His work":**
 - ✓ Jesus found satisfaction in not merely doing and starting the will/work of God, but *finishing* it.
 - ✓ This completes the thought begun in the previous verse.
 - Jesus was surrendered to the Master's will.
 - Jesus was committed to the mission.
 - Jesus came to do...and Jesus came to finish His work.
- "IT IS FINISHED"- Completed the mission...fulfilled the will of the Father.**

John 4:35-38, "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! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this 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 labors."

- **"There are still four months and then comes the harvest":**
 - ✓ This was a proverb with the idea that in the farmer's mind...there is still time for a great harvest and the normal thing is to wait for a full head on the grain.
 - ✓ ***Jesus did not want His disciples to have this mentality; He wanted them to think and act as if the harvest was ready now.***
- **"Lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!"**

- ✓ Jesus used the idea of food and harvest to communicate spiritual ideas. The idea of **harvest** meant that there were many people ready to be received into the Kingdom of God, and that the disciples should see themselves as workers – reapers – in that **harvest**.
- ✓ If they had the eyes to see it, the *harvest was ready now* – even **white for harvest**, implying that the grain was fully ripe or over ripe.
- ✓ The tomatoes are red and juicy, the okra is ready to cut...wait and you will not enjoy the finished product you have worked so hard for. Contrast: There are souls right in your family, your neighborhood, tell them about Jesus
 - “Expect a present blessing; believe that you will have it; go to work to get it, and do not be satisfied unless you do have it.” (Spurgeon)
- **“He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together”:**
 - ✓ Jesus encouraged His disciples in their work with Him in at least three ways:
 1. Their work in the harvest would be rewarded (**He who reaps receives wages**).
 2. The good of their work would last forever (**gathers fruit for eternal life**).
 3. Every worker in the harvest would **rejoice together** in the work.
- **“I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors”:**
 - ✓ The disciples could now reap a harvest immediately, and they reaped it from seeds they didn’t sow.
 - ✓ John the Baptist and Jesus sowed the seeds, and the disciples had the opportunity to reap.
 - ✓ This is how the work of God happens – **one sows and another reaps** (1 Corinthians 3:6-8).

John 4:39-42, “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.” So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word. 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.”

- **“Many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him”:**
 - ✓ They **believed in Him** as the Messiah of God. Why?
 - ✓ Not because of Jesus death on the cross, His resurrection (He hasn’t died yet)...or even what he said...They believed because a woman with a bad reputation testified to those who knew her best.

They saw the excitement, the change in her attitude and countenance, and the convincing words by the Holy Spirit.

- **“He told me all that I ever did”:**
 - ✓ The woman was amazed not only that Jesus knew the facts of her life, but that *He loved her* even knowing the facts of her life.
 - ✓ We sometimes fear that if someone knew **all that we ever did**, they could not love us.
 - ✓ Jesus loved this woman because He could see her heart and He knew He could fulfill her deep emotional hurts and yearning for a better life.
- **“He stayed there two days. Many more believed because of His own word”:**
 - ✓ It was remarkable that Samaritans would invite a Jewish teacher/prophet to stay with them, with no fear of rebuke or criticism.
 - ✓ This shows how completely he had won their confidence.
 - ✓ During the stay His discerning reasoning, wisdom and knowledge of people’s concerns helped add to the number of the believers in Samaria.
 - ✓ All because a woman was excited about being forgiven of her sin. She wanted that “Living Water”...the water that could restore the inner soul and not just quench the thirst for a drink of cool water.
- **“We know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world” (because we have heard Him):**
 - ✓ The remarkable testimony of the woman at the well connected the Samaritans to Jesus;
 - ✓ In hearing Him they came to a deeper personal faith in Jesus as both Messiah (**Christ**) and **the Savior of the world**.

