

John 4:27-42
January 4, 1987
Rome Ga.
September 8, 2013

Subject: The testimony of the Samaritan woman.

Theme: Spiritual discernment can be in short supply among those who think that they know the savior the best.

Proposition. WHERE ARE YOUR EYES FOCUSED? [What is your meat? Has Jesus done anything for you? Have you told others?]

Illustration: (one year) While in Texas (1986) for the holidays, I went squirrel hunting. I have not been in a number of years but I still remembered the basic do's and don't's. One thing that is very important is how you focus your vision. You have to be constantly on the lookout for tell-tale signs that a squirrel is in the neighborhood.

The **focus of your vision is all important**. We saw a T.V. program on Optical Illusions. The way you look at things determines what you see. Sometimes our minds eye sees only what we want it to see. (the disjointed chair on t.v. when viewed from the proper angle, looked like it was all together). Let me ask you a question this morning, WHERE ARE YOUR EYES FOCUSED.

Are your eyes focused on you and YOUR NEEDS; YOUR THEOLOGY; YOUR MORALITY ?

OUTLINE:

27, + 31-38 = disciples and Jesus THE DILEMMA OF DISCIPLESHIP

28-30, + 39-42 = Woman and Samaritans THE DECLARATION OF THE REDEEMED

40-42, Christ and the Samaritans THE DECISION OF THE DELIBERATORS

I. THE DILEMMA OF DISCIPLESHIP 27, + 31-38

A. A FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND the ACTIONS OF GOD

27-- they would not ask Christ about His perplexing behavior.

Often we seem perplexed when the Lord is working. Somehow we cannot understand that He is doing that which is needful. We have a tendency to put Jesus in the limited sphere of our human conception of Him and forget that He is free to do that which needs to be done regardless of whether we approve or not.

We pray and await an answer to our prayer. Yet, we often do not recognize the answer when it comes because we have already decided how God should respond. **We pray according to OUR WILL BE DONE and not THY WILL BE DONE.** How often we hear the lame lament that God has turned a deaf ear to His child's plea for help when in all likelihood the prayer has indeed been answered. God is not our puppet to do our will but our Sovereign who will have all to accomplish His will.

Isaiah 55:8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

The disciples were concerned with how it looked for a Jew to speak to a Samaritan. They were not programed to expect God to deal in the lives of those not of their nation.

The disciples were concerned with **Jesus need for physical nourishment** but Jesus was concerned only with the **accomplishment of His Father's will**. "I have meat to eat that ye know not of...**32**. and **34** ... My food is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work."

B. A FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND THE NOURISHMENT OF GOD

31--33 the disciples, like so many of us today, **were overly concerned with physical needs and totally unaware of the spiritual character of our mission on this planet**. It is quite easy to become caught up in the day to day grind of daily survival. Apparently God's people have a propensity for forgetting that which is important.

MOSES found it necessary to remind his people of the danger of **overemphasis on the physical requirements of this life**.

Deut. 8:3." And **He humbled thee**, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with the manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that He might make thee to know that **man doth not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.**"

They were **like Martha** who, though she did that which appeared to her to be needful, actually neglected the weightier matters of this life. **LUKE**

10:38ff..."... Martha, Martha, thou art anxious and troubled about many things. **42 BUT ONE THING IS NEEDFUL, AND MARY HATH CHOSEN THAT GOOD PART**, which shall not be taken away from her."

If we want others to see what Christ can do for them we must first let them see what Christ has done for us. We need to tell them about Jesus.

Some of us will stand before God someday having never spoken a word to an unbeliever about the saving power of the blood of Jesus. When we are questioned about our lack of action here below we will undoubtedly respond (as we do now) that we lived out the Christian life in such a way that it was so obvious to all that it was unnecessary for us to verbalize our faith to others.

But please be aware that **even the Son of God when He walked in sinless perfection on this earth, found it both NECESSARY and EXPEDIENT to VERBALLY engage individuals in conversation and to LEAD them into faith with the SPOKEN WORD!!!!**

Had Jesus lived among men and kept quiet and obeyed all the laws of man and God and died of a ripe old age, we would not have a relationship to God today. And this was a very real TEMPTATION for Jesus. He had to put forth effort to overcome this temptation just like we do today "for He was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." **Heb. 4:15**

THERE ARE MANY CHRISTIANS TODAY WHO ARE DOING NOTHING, BUT THERE ARE NO CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE NOTHING TO DO!

DB Jan. 23, 78. " How strange that many of us Americans are **overeating and starving at the same time**. We are finding that malnutrition is not always a matter of having too little in our stomachs. It can also result in consuming a lot of food that has only limited nutritional value....." Fast foods etc....

OK occasionally, but they should not be a substitute for good meat and vegetables. " there is a parallel in the area of spiritual health. Some of the most undernourished believers are those who stuff themselves with religious activities. They dine heavily on good preaching and sample every gospel group that comes along. They are on the mailing list of several sound Christian organizations. But these people are starving their souls. The problem is that these elements make up too much of their spiritual diet. That is not to say that they are of no value. It's just that by themselves, these snacks are incomplete. **UNLESS THESE "FAST FOODS" ARE COMBINED WITH A GREATER AMOUNT OF OBEDIENCE TO GOD, BELIEVERS WILL REMAIN WEAK AND UNDERNOURISHED."**

MY MEAT IS TO DO (OBEY!!) THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME. (and to finish His work)"

Likewise, every child of God should concern themselves with DETERMINING and FOLLOWING THROUGH with the will of God for their lives.

THE MEAT OF THE WORD IS MOST NOURISHING WHEN IT IS COMBINED WITH THE DAILY EXERCISE OF OBEDIENCE TO GOD.

Too many believers today are substituting **SEEING** and **HEARING** for **DOING!**

Romans 2:13 " for **not** the **hearers** of the law are just before God but the **doers** of the law shall be justified."

James 1:22 "But **be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only**, DECEIVING YOUR OWN SELVES. 23 For if any man be a hearer of the word, and not a **doer**, he is like a man beholding his natural face in a mirror; 24 For he beholdeth himself and goeth his way, and immediately forgeteth what manner of man he was. 25 But whosoever looketh into the perfect law of liberty, AND CONTINUETH IN IT, HE BEING NOT A FORGETFUL HEARER BUT A DOER OF THE WORK, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

******read 35*******

35-38-- on one occasion when God's man appeared to be in deep trouble with the world it was necessary for God to supernaturally intervene and open the spiritual eyes of **Elisha's servant** so that he could see spiritual forces at work " Look on the fields. Like Elisha's prayer for his servant that his eyes might be opened { **II Kings 6:17**}

Ki 6:17 And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

ONLY HERE IT IS NOT A PRAYER BUT A COMMAND!!!! BOTH **LIFT** AND **LOOK** ARE IN THE IMPERATIVE MOOD!!

WHERE ARE YOUR EYES FOCUSED??? **THEOMAI** Theater. Looking with discernment.

You do not sow seed when the fields are ready to be harvested. Don't let the fruit spoil while you search for a spot of bare ground to plant on. **God has placed us in the richest field in the world here in America.** The field has been planted and cultivated and cries out to be harvested but many say wait. As the

apostles opened their eyes they could see the Samaritans coming. **There were prospects and potential converts about to swarm all over them.** Those who awaited news of the Messiah and sought Him even at the word of a promiscuous woman were even at the moment that Christ spoke, making their way to the well and the disciples. Oh, that Jesus might direct our eyes to the harvest around us. We are fearful lest our enemies overtake us and yet our enemies are the very ones that Christ came to Harvest!.

The disciples did not understand why it was that Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well. After all, **SHE WAS NOT A JEW. SHE WAS NOT AMONG THE CHOSEN CHILDREN OF GOD. SHE WAS NOT THE RIGHT KIND OF PERSON. SHE WASN'T BORN IN THE RIGHT KIND OF FAMILY. SHE WAS FROM THE WRONG PART OF THE COUNTRY. SHE WAS A SINNER. TO SPEAK TO HER COULD BRING THE REPROACH AND WRATH OF THE JEWS IN JERUSALEM.**

Luke 5:31-32. "they that are well need not a physician, but they that are sick. I came not to call the Righteous, but the sinners to repentance."

LK. 19:10 " For the Son of man is come to SEEK and to SAVE that which was lost."

The angel told Joseph that Jesus would save his people from their sins.

Math 1:21.

Simeon declared that Jesus was a "light to lighten the gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel." **Lk. 2:31-2.**

Jesus Himself declared that no man may approach God in any other way or through any other channel than Himself. " I am the way the truth and the light. **No man cometh unto the father but by me.**"

Already in this gospel we have seen the broad appeal of the gospel. **3:16-18**

II. THE DECLARATION OF THE REDEEMED 28-30, + 39

A. THE REDEEMED CAN GO FORTH WITH BOLDNESS

MANY...BELIEVED ON HIM FOR THE SAYING OF THE WOMAN WHO TESTIFIED.

12 apostles went into that town and there is no record that even one of them mentioned the Messiah to an unbeliever!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

All too often, those who have grown too comfortable in their relationship with Christ seem to forget that they were not saved to feel comfortable.

They were not saved so that they could go to heaven. Those who are saved are redeemed with the purpose in mind that they might bring glory to God through true worship which demands that we prostrate ourselves at the feet of our savior and earnestly desire to give to God that which He desires of us. It is only when we truly learn to worship God that we will understand how it is that we may serve Him.

28-- a woman who was used to speaking with men. She went on "her way" **As she was going. Great commission.** We don't always have to go out of our way to lead someone to the Lord.

B. THE REDEEMED CAN GO FORTH WITH CONFIDENCE 29—

Her presentation was designed to arouse curiosity in the ears of the hearers. "Here is a man who told me all things that ever I did." This probably peeked the curiosity of others who may have wondered if Jesus also knew what things they had done and with whom! And then a question designed to draw others to Him so that they might make their own decision as to the Messiahship of this man called Jesus. "**this couldn't be the Messiah, could it?**" She asked if He might be the Messiah so as not to appear dogmatic to the men of the city. Jesus had Identified Himself to this woman as the Christ in 26.

30-- These were men who knew of the coming Messiah. They were not believers nor were they men who took lightly the promises of God. Many today, including the vast majority of Jews, know that there is to be a Messiah to come. And come He will, not for Salvation but for JUDGEMENT.

III. THE DECISION OF THE DELIBERATORS. 40-42

A. THEY HEARD THE TESTIMONY OF THE REDEEMED ****39**** the result was SALVATION for those who believed in Jesus. **MANY...BELIEVED ON HIM FOR THE SAYING OF THE WOMAN WHO TESTIFIED.**

B. THEY HEARD THE WORD OF THE REDEEMER

Having been introduced to the Savior they found him to be indeed who He was. We need not fear that others will find Christ to be less than advertised!!!

Perhaps you know someone who has heard of the Messiah, who is not anti-god but is not yet on the true narrow path that leads to salvation. Don't over cultivate the poor fellow. Don't continue to assume that he needs more of your fertilizer. Introduce them directly to Jesus and let them decide for themselves.

The witness of the woman led the Samaritans to a direct personal confrontation with Jesus.

The Christ, the Savior of the WORLD!!!! Jn. 1:9 " That was the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world."

Jesus did not come for the Jew only or for the Gentile only. He came so that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord, shall be saved.

Rev. 7:9 " And after this I beheld and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and peoples, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands. 10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation [belongs] to our God who sitteth upon the throne and unto the lamb.

Romans 10:14 " 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?