Series: Hope Again

**Jesus Brings a Harvest of Joy**

John 4:27-42 April 30, 2017

1. You’ll never have a better time to share. (vv. 27-30)

a. The disciples let obstacles keep them from sharing.

* v. 27 Don’t be so busy shopping you don’t share.
* v. 27 Don’t put walls between you and people to keep you from sharing.
  + *“They marveled that he was talking with a woman”*

b. The Samaritan didn’t let obstacles keep her from sharing.

* v. 28 Don’t let your chores keep you from sharing.
  + *“the woman left her water jar”*
* v. 28 Don’t let your lack of influence keep you from sharing.
  + *“the woman”* – she had no social standing
* v. 28 Don’t let fear keep you from sharing.
  + *“said to the people”* – she had avoided people
* v. 29 Don’t let your lack of knowledge keep you from sharing.
  + *“Can this be the Christ?”* – she wasn’t sure

c. Those whom God calls respond in spite of the obstacles.

* v. 30 “*They went out of the town and were coming to him.”*
* Romans 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes*

Q. What are the biggest obstacles that keep you from sharing?

Q. What are some of the walls that keep you from getting to know people around you? What could be done to bring them down? Or what would it look like to just ignore them as Jesus did?

Q. What do you find most inspiring about the Samaritan woman’s witness?

2. You’re never more alive than when you share. (vv. 31-38)

a. There is a hunger in a Christian that can only be filled by doing God’s will.

* v. 32 *“I have food to eat that you do not know about.”*
* v. 34 *“My food is to do the will of him who sent me”*

b. We need to lift up our eyes to see the harvest and the joy that there is in sowing.

* v. 35 *“lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest”*
* v. 36 *“Already the one who reaps is receiving wages”*
* v. 36 *“sower and reaper may rejoice together”*

c. Everyone is needed to secure a full harvest.

* v. 37 *“One sows and another reaps.”*
* v. 38 *“I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor.”*
* 1 Peter 3:15 *But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,*
* Colossians 4:6 *Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*

Q. Why do you think Jesus uses the word “food” to talk about doing God’s will, particularly in sharing our faith? How would a Christian who never shares his or her faith feel if doing God’s will is a Christian’s food?

Q. Do you know the food that Jesus speaks of? When are you most conscious of feeding on it?

Q. How is it that the sower and the reaper are able to rejoice together?

Q. What do you need to sow seeds of faith effectively? What do you need to harvest crops of faith effectively?

3. You’re never alone when you share. (vv. 39-42)

a. When we share, we point to Christ.

* v. 39 *“He told me all that I ever did.”*

b. When we share, Christ points to Himself.

* v. 40 *“he stayed there two days”*
* v .41 “*many more believed because of his word”*
* v. 42 “*It is no longer because of what you said that we believe*”

c. If Jesus is the Saviour of the world, He can’t be restrained.

* v.42 “*this is indeed the Savior of the world*”

Q. As far as qualifications for sharing, what do you have that the Samaritan woman didn’t? What did the Samaritan woman have that you don’t? To what extent is a problem with sharing our faith a problem with passion and vitality in our relationship with Jesus?

Q. What’s wrong with sharing that doesn’t mention Jesus?

Q. What are some of the ways that Jesus can assist our sharing?

Conclusion:

* We can’t live a full Christian life without joining Jesus on mission and overcoming the obstacles that keep us from sharing our faith.

Study ahead: next week, we’ll look at John 4:43-54.

**Notes:**