The Gospel of John
**4.3—BEYOND RACE & GENDER DIVIDES – JOHN 4:25-42**

**LET’S OPEN OUR BIBLES TO JOHN 4**

**INTRODUCTION**

**LET ME BEGIN BY SAYING THANK GOD FOR THE HOLY, WRITTEN, INSPIRED WORD OF GOD. 2 PETER 1:19 SAYS THAT IT’S A LAMP SHINING IN A DARK PLACE. TODAY THE LAMP OF GOD’S WORD IS GOING TO SHINE SO BRIGHTLY THAT WE WILL CLEARLY SEE HOW GOD WANTS US TO LIVE IN THIS WORLD OF INCREASING DARKNESS. 2 TIMOTHY 3:16–17 (ESV) [SAYS], *“ALL SCRIPTURE IS BREATHED OUT BY GOD AND PROFITABLE FOR TEACHING, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, AND FOR TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE COMPLETE, EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.”* AND THAT’S CERTAINLY TRUE FOR THE PASSAGE THAT WE’RE STUDYING TODAY. THERE IS SO MUCH INSIGHT, INSTRUCTION AND POWER IN THIS PORTION OF SCRIPTURE, THAT I FEEL HONORED TO BE SHARING SOME OF IT TODAY WITH ALL OF YOU. THE GOD OF THIS WORLD IS WORKING OVERTIME TO DIVIDE US… TO DIVIDE US BY RACE… SKIN COLOR… GENDER… ECONOMICS… POLITICAL VIEWS… AND EVEN VACCINATION STATUSES. HIS MESSAGE IS THAT IF YOU MEET PEOPLE THAT DON’T AGREE WITH YOU, YOU DON’T HAVE TO TREAT THEM WITH KINDNESS AND RESPECT… YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MISTREAT THEM… TO SILENCE THEM… OR TO IGNORE THEM ALTOGETHER. AFTER ALL, THEY ARE SOMETHING OF A “LOW-LIFE” FOR BELIEVING THE WAY THEY DO. IN JESUS’ DAY, SOME OF THE SAME KINDS OF SOCIAL DIVIDES EXISTED, INCLUDING NATIONALITIES, ENTHINICITIES, POLITICS, ECONOMICS, RELIGION AND GENDER.**

**TODAY, WE ARE GOING TO WATCH OUR MASTER—OUR CREATOR IN HUMAN FORM—SHOW US HOW TO SEE AND DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY THAN THE WORLD. HOW TO SEE WITH THE LOVING EYES OF GOD. AND HOW TO BREAK FROM THE NORMAL PATTERNS OF OUR OWN CULTURE TO SUPERNATURALLY BRING SALVATION TO PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT LIKE US. HE’S ALSO GOING TO SHOW US HOW POWERFUL IT IS TO NOT OVERLOOK WOMEN DOING MINISTRY. IT’S TIME FOR THE CHURCH—THE BODY OF CHRIST—TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE AND REACH OUT TO OTHERS WITH THE LOVE OF JESUS. I PRAY THAT THE LORD WILL CLEARLY AND POWERFULLY REVEAL TO EACH OF YOU WHAT HE IS CALLING US.**

**LET’S FIRST READ JOHN 4:3-9 TO REMEMBER SOME OF THE CONTEXT, AND THEN WE’LL FOCUS ON VERSES 25-42.**

**John 4:3–9, 25–42 (ESV)** he **[Jesus]** left Judea and departed again for Galilee. **4** And he had to pass through Samaria. **5** So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. **6** Jacob’s well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. **7** **A woman** from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” **8** (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) **9** The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with **Samaritans**.) **… Verse 25** The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, **he will tell us all things**.” **26** Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.” **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?” **28** So **the woman** left her water jar and went away into town and **said to the people**, **29** “Come, see a man **who told me all that I ever did**. Can this be the Christ?” **30** **They went out of the town and were coming to him**. **31** Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” **32** But he said to them, “**I have food** to eat that you do not know about.” **33** So the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought him something to eat?” **34** Jesus said to them, “My food is **to do** the will of him who sent me and **to accomplish** his work. **35** Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? **Look**, I tell you, li**ft up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest**. **36** Already **the one** who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. **37** For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ **38** **I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor**. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” **39** **Many Samaritans** from that town believed in him because of **the woman’s testimony**, “He told me all that I ever did.” **40** So when the Samaritans came to him, **they asked him to stay** with them, and **he stayed** there two days. **41** And **many more believed** because of his word. **42** They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you **[the woman]** said that we believe, **for we [Samaritans] have heard for ourselves**, and we know that this is indeed **the Savior of the world [every race, every culture, every skin color, every age, either gender]**.”

**THINGS WE LEARN FROM JESUS:**

1. After a long journey on foot without food, all twelve disciples went to seek food, and only Jesus stayed and was in the right place to reap a great harvest.
2. He was willing to be interrupted to do the Father’s will
3. He was sensitive to the Father’s leading to reach out to people—the Samaritans—that He was not assigned to reach (Matthew 10:6, 15:24)
4. He ignored the cultural and social norms that urged Him to overlook this person because she’s a woman
5. He avoided the prevalent arguments of the day, such as, is Jerusalem is where people should worship, and that Jews are the chosen people, so they understand more than other people
6. He ignored her different ethnic background, religious beliefs, and political views
7. He invested in someone who was not considered highly favored by God
8. Though intending to pass right through their neighborhood to get back home to Galilee, He was sensitive enough to discern a hunger in that city, and discovered that a huge harvest was ripe.
9. He allowed the Holy Spirit to deliver a word of knowledge to the woman which opened wide the door to the city.
10. While awaiting the people’s response to the woman’s testimony, and though very hungry and tired, Jesus fasted the food His disciples brought Him to prepare Himself spiritually to bring salvation to this city.
11. He delayed His own plans two to three days to reach these people.

**THINGS WE LEARN FROM THE WOMAN:**

1. She was willing to serve someone of a people and culture—the Jews—who looked down on her people—the Samaritans.
2. Though she didn’t understand at first, she listened with humility and eventually discovered a most important truth, who the Savior of the world is.
3. When she realized the truth about Jesus, she put her reputation on the line to influence as many of the people of her own culture to come meet Him and hear Him.
4. She dropped everything she was doing to make sure that people knew about Jesus.
5. She used her own story and experience to influence others.
6. She did not bring attention to herself, but rather to Jesus.

**WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE PEOPLE OF SYCHAR:**

1. They were hungry for God in their lives.
2. They immediately dropped everything they were doing and came out to meet Jesus.
3. Though He was Jewish, they humbly listened to Jesus to see if what He was saying was true.
4. After hearing the truth, they asked Jesus to stay with them.
5. Over the next two days, they kept bringing more and more people who heard and believed.
6. Probably by listending to His message, they gave Jesus a title we hadn’t seen… “the Savior of the world.”

Several decades later John was writing 1 John, and he used this same title:

**1 John 4:14 (ESV)** And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

**THINGS WE LEARN FROM THE DISCIPLES:**

1. If you carry on with the normal routine, you’ll miss out on amazing ministry opportunities that God has for you.
2. If you discount people because of their race or gender, you’ll miss out on amazing ministry opportunities that God has for you.
3. If you let your flesh and appetite lead you, you’ll miss out on amazing ministry opportunities that God has for you.

**THINGS WE LEARN FROM JESUS’ INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS DISCIPLES:**

1. Don’t discount anyone because of their gender.
2. Don’t overlook any group of people or culture.
3. There is ripe harvest in the most unexpected places.
4. Don’t grow proud when you reap… it didn’t start with you.

**EX – When a ministry calling burns on your heart, eating food begins to pale in comparison. Not only that, but feeding on natural food will give you natural energy, but feeding on spiritual food will give you supernatural power.**