

- I. Opening Thoughts
 - A. People's lives who are changed by Christ should bear witness to that fact
 - B. Our ministry focus should be to please the Father
 - C. Jesus prepared the way for us to reap the harvest of souls
- II. Exegesis
 - A. Vs. 27
 1. The disciples were startled that Jesus would be talking to a Samaritan woman. This is no surprise because of the prejudices of the day. In some rabbinic circles, this was considered a waste of time.
 - B. Vss. 28-30
 1. This Samaritan woman, in spite of her previous shame, encountered the Messiah, and became a witness for Christ
 2. She abandoned the old water for the new, living water given only by Christ (Carson)
 - C. Vss. 31-33
 1. Jesus always had His priorities in order, which were spiritual in nature.
 2. The disciples had yet to understand the spiritual nature of Christ's ministry. They were thinking in literal terms just as the Samaritan woman, Nicodemus, and the Jews.
 3. John often used such misunderstandings to advance the argument of his Gospel (MacArthur)
 - D. Vs. 34
 1. Jesus was always focusing on the big picture, doing God's will and pleasing the Father. His works were the work of God.
 2. Here Jesus was echoing Deuteronomy 8:3, which Jesus alludes to in Matthew 4:4 = Luke 4:4
 3. We must understand the Lord's will – Ephesians 5:17. Doing His will provides us with the greatest spiritual satisfaction and sustenance
 4. John 6:38-40
 5. With the cross in view, Jesus could proclaim He completed the work God gave Him to do – John 17:4
 6. At the end of his ministry, Paul echoed a finished work in 2 Timothy 4:5-8
 - E. Vss. 35-38
 1. The work of Christ prepares us for the harvest of souls. The urgency about reaching the lost is here, then and now. In His day, the Samaritans were the ripened harvest
 2. The harvest is plentiful – Matthew 9:37-38
 3. The work of the sower and reaper are both essential. "The sower labors in anticipation of what is to come; the reaper must never forget that the harvest he enjoys is the fruit of another's toil" (Carson)
 4. The OT prophets and righteous leaders up to John the Baptist laid the groundwork for Christ's ministry
 5. The redemptive history began with Jesus and the disciples
 - F. Vss. 39-42
 1. The woman's testimony led others to believe in Christ. The work of Christ took away her shame. He changed her life. He told her what she truly needed.
 2. When the Samaritans make the point to the woman who first mentioned Jesus to them (vs. 42). It is not to disparage her testimony but to confirm it: they have heard for themselves, and have judged her witness to be true (Carson)
 3. Jesus' ministry to the Samaritans represented the first instance of cross-cultural evangelism and ministry (Acts 1:8)