



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS for October 15, 2023
Text: John 4:27-42 New International Version

Sermon Title: Overflow

Sermon Series: Refresh: Sharing Christ in Everyday Conversations

Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Bryan Eckelmann

Theme/concept With a question and an invitation (John 4:29), the woman initiates spiritual conversations with the very people who judged and rejected her. The Samaritans' conversations with Jesus then allow the Samaritans to move from borrowed faith to owned faith. Opportunities for some of the deepest spiritual conversations come with those who know us (and our faults) best.

Application Join a small group...! Share your story!

Icebreaker (for groups) Tell about a time you planted something that you didn't get to harvest or a time you harvested something that others had planted.

Reflections on the Sermon What were your take aways from the sermon?

Scripture

John 4:27-42 (NIV)

²⁷ Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people,

²⁹ “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” ³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

³¹ Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.”

³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

³³ Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?”

³⁴ “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. ³⁵ Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. ³⁶ Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. ³⁷ Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. ³⁸ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers.

⁴² They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

Reviewing the Scripture

1. In verse 27 what happens? Why were the disciples surprised? What unasked questions did they have?

2. Summarize the actions that occur in verses 28-30.

3. In verses 31-33 Jesus is alone with his disciples temporarily. How would you describe their interchange? To what degree do the disciples understand what Jesus is saying?

4. Verses 34-38 clarify what Jesus is talking about. What does Jesus consider to be his food? What kind of harvest is he talking about in verse 35? What kind of wage is Jesus speaking about in verse 36?

5. In verse 37, according to Jesus, why is the saying, "One sows and another reaps," true? How are the disciples about to reap something that they haven't sown?

6. According to verse 39 why did many townspeople believe in Jesus that day? What can we infer from this verse about the nature of a testimony?

7. Why do you think the Samaritans urged Jesus to stay longer with them? (Notice the verb is "urged" instead of "invited.") What was the result of Jesus' extended stay among them?

8. What 3 things do the townspeople tell the woman in verse 42?

Going Deeper

1. Going back to verse 27, think about a time when you had a question to ask, but refrained from doing so. Why did you refrain? Why do you think the disciples didn't ask the questions that were on their minds?

2. Why do you think John includes the detail that the woman left her water jar behind in verse 28? Do you think she left it deliberately, or did she forget it? Do your answers to this question lead you to any conclusions?

3. From verse 29 what do we learn about the spiritual knowledge and expectations of the Samaritans? How can we be mindful of a person's background and knowledge as we engage in spiritual conversations?

4. In addition to many more Samaritans becoming believers after they urged Jesus to stay longer with them, what other benefits might have resulted from this unscheduled "delay"?

Closing Prayer

Lord thank you for giving John the time to record this incident we call The Woman at the Well. Thank you for the richness of this narrative. Thank you that your Word is as relevant to us today as it was to the disciples and to the Samaritans 2000 years ago. Forgive us when we ignore the needy people in our lives. Please open our eyes to the fields that are rich for harvest. In Jesus' name, Amen