

GRACE

Reformed Baptist Church

Soli ◇ deo ◇ gloria

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Sermon Notes

Accomplishing the Father's Will

John 4:27-34

January 30, 2005

Verse 27

- *At this point*
 - At the point of, or immediately following, Jesus' revelation to the Samaritan woman
- “they [the disciples] were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman”
 - One Jewish saying went as follows: “A man shall not be alone with a woman in an inn, not even with his sister or his daughter, on account of what men may think. A man shall not talk with a woman in the street, not even with his own wife, and especially not with another woman, on account of what men may say.”
 - Another stated, “He that talks much with womankind brings evil upon himself and neglects the study of the Law and at last will inherit Gehenna [Hell].”
 - An ancient Jewish prayer (still found in the Jewish prayer book) said, “Blessed art thou, O Lord...who hast not made me a woman.”
- “yet no one said, ‘What do You seek?’ or, ‘Why do You speak with her?’”
 - They did not ask the woman “What do You seek?” because they would have been guilty of speaking to the woman [they thing that Jesus was doing that surprised them]
 - They did not ask Jesus, “Why do You speak with her?” possibly because they were going to wait until she left

Verses 28-29

- The woman left her waterpot
 - Symbolically, she left her old way of life
 - There was a definite change in the woman *inwardly*
 - That change generated action
 - Real change always produces action
- The woman went into the city and spoke to the men
 - Notice her boldness and lack of fear
- “Come, see a man who told me all the things that I *have* done; this is not the Christ, is it?”
 - This question by the Samaritan woman is asked in such a way as to expect a negative answer, but hope for a positive one.
 - Observe the change in the woman’s heart by how she addresses Jesus:
 - **Jew** (verse 9)
 - **Sir** (verses 11, 15, and 19)
 - **Prophet** (verse 19)
 - **Christ** (verse 29)

Verse 30

- “They [the men] went out of the city, and were coming to Him.”
 - The men from the city of Sychar went out to Jacob’s Well, presumably, while Jesus was still speaking with His disciples

Verse 31

- Jesus’ disciples were urging Him to eat
 - Jesus was wearied from His journey into Samaria (verse 6), thirsty (verse 7), and likely hungry as well
 - His disciples had gone to get food in the town of Sychar

- His disciples were concerned about and focused on His **physical** needs, stating, “Rabbi, eat.”

Verses 32-33

- Jesus states, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”
 - It appears that Jesus is thinking of the conversation he just had with the Samaritan woman
- The disciples responded, “No one brought him anything to eat, did he?” – wondering how he could have eaten [physical] food, when He had not yet eaten the food they had brought Him
 - The disciples, like Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman, were focused on the physical.

Verse 34

- Jesus takes this misunderstanding by the disciples – their focus on *physical* food, and teaches them a significant *spiritual* truth
- Jesus states, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.”
 - Food...
 - Nourishes
 - Strengthens
 - Sustains
 - Satisfies
- Jesus is reiterating the truth found in Deuteronomy 8:3 (he also quotes this in Matthew 4:4 and Luke 4:4 during his 40 days and temptation in the wilderness):
 - “He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.”
- Jesus came to accomplish the Father’s will (5:36; 6:38), and He perfectly accomplished it (8:29).

❖ **Jesus' food** (i.e. His satisfaction, nourishment, strength, sustainment, etc.), **came from accomplishing His Father's will.**

• **Christ's life was consumed by doing the Father's Will.**

○ What were the characteristics of His life?

1. It was **THEOCENTRIC** – “God-centered”

2. It was a life of **DEPENDENCE**

3. It was a life of **OBEDIENCE**

Indeed, Jesus' life can be summed up in one word: “obedience.”

4. It was a life of **PASSION** and **PURPOSE**

• Jesus was on a mission, sent by the Father (Verse 34), and it led to the cross.

• Prior to His crucifixion, Jesus stated, “I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do” (John 17:4).

• The word in Verse 34 for *accomplish* [tɛl ei OW] a cognate of the word for *finished* [tɛlos, tɛl os] in John 19:30.

• Therefore, the ultimate expression of obedience to the divine will of the Father was the cross.

5. It was a life of **SACRIFICE**

6. It was a life of **SATISFACTION**

• **Like Christ, the Father has a will for our lives: To glorify Him.**

○ Christ was about His Father's business; so how do we know if we are?

- What are the characteristics of someone who is going about the Father's business?
- Romans 12:1 states, **“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”**
- If we are to be like Christ, then our lives should bear the same characteristics as His:

1. **They should be THEOCENTRIC – “God-centered”**

- How does this relate to John 4:24: “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth”?

1. **They should be lives of DEPENDENCE**

2. **They should be lives of OBEDIENCE**

3. **They should be lives of PASSION and PURPOSE**

4. **They should be lives of SACRIFICE**

5. **They should be lives of SATISFACTION**

“In 1792 an impoverished and youthful English pastor, part-time teacher, and shoemaker undertook the task of setting down his convictions in a small pamphlet, counteracting the prevailing view in his day that the Great Commission no longer applied to Christians. He possessed few literary graces. He avoided the limelight. He even belonged to one of the smaller bodies of dissenting churches of that day. Yet, his pamphlet, *Enquiry*, as well as his personal example over the next 40 years resulted in a major revolution in outlook and outreach of the Christian Church...This man eventually set sail for India in 1793, eventually settling near Calcutta. With little formal education but possessing extraordinary perseverance and conviction, he weathered financial crises, natural disasters, family illness, and criticisms from England to make advances in evangelism, the natural sciences, and education.

Today, William Carey is recognized as the “father of Protestant missions,” since historians date the modern era of Protestant missions back to the publishing date of his *Enquiry*.”

From *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*

A Few Words on Fasting...

"We often fail to understand God's Word as fully as we ought simply because, unlike those great people of God [in Scripture], we do not seek to comprehend it with their degree of intensity and determination. Skipping a few meals might be a small price we willingly pay for staying in the Word until understanding comes."

John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary Matthew 1-7*, p.403

Christian fasting, "is a chosen weapon against every force in the world that would take [our satisfaction with God] away." He goes on to say, "the greatest enemy of hunger for God is not poison but apple pie. It is not the banquet of the wicked that dulls our appetite for heaven, but endless nibbling at the table of the world. It is not the X-rated video, but the prime-time dribble of triviality we drink in every night...When God describes what keeps us from the banquet table of His love, it is a piece of land, a yoke of oxen, and a wife (Luke 14:18-20). The greatest adversary of love to God is not His enemies but His gifts. And the most deadly appetites are not for the poison of evil, but for the simple pleasures of earth. For when these replace an appetite for God himself, the idolatry is scarcely recognizable, and almost incurable. Therefore...we will do anything and go without anything if, by any means, we might protect ourselves for the deadening effects of innocent delights and preserve the sweet longings of our homesickness for God."

John Piper, *A Hunger for God*, p. 14-15