

Observations from John 4:1-42:

- Don't expect your followers to go somewhere (i.e., Samaria) if you aren't willing to go yourself (4:4; Acts 1:8).
- Our cultural, ethnocentric barriers can cause us to ignore broken and spiritually lost people who are right in our midst. Jesus wants "Jews" to associate with "Samaritans."
- Jesus offers living water to people with thirsty souls. The water this world offers only satisfied temporarily, but the satisfaction and joy that comes from living water will last forever (4:10, 13-14).
- God is not as concerned about *where* we worship Him as He is concerned that we worship Him with what is inside of us and according to His revealed truth (4:20-24).
- Jesus states that He is the Messiah, the Christ of whom the Old Testament prophecies (4:26).
- If you decide to spend time with sinners and people with shady moral pasts in order to reach them for Christ people may misunderstand you, question your motives, and yet never talk to you face-to-face about it (4:27).
- Once a person receives the gift of Christ, they should feel compelled to go share it with others (4:28-29).
- Giving someone a personal invitation to investigate the truth and claims about Jesus Christ is a great first step in bringing them face to face with Jesus—"Come, see..." (4:29).
- Understanding Jesus' identity ("the Messiah...the Savior of the world") is crucial in order for people to place their trust in Him and to be saved (4:29, 42).
- We can take comfort in the fact that even Jesus' disciples were slow to understand who Jesus was and His purpose for their lives (4:31-33)!
- Jesus wants us to be more concerned about the spiritually lost than we are about lunch. When we are *most* concerned about our physical lunch (and the everyday things of life), then we tend to be only *slightly* concerned about the spiritually lost (4:31-34).
- Doing the will of God the Father and accomplishing His work should be what nourishes, satisfies, and motivates us. It is our "food" (4:34).
- God wants us as His followers to be faithful in reaching the people who are right in front of us. There are people around us right now that are "white for harvest" (4:35).
- When we begin to see as Jesus saw ("lift up your eyes and look at the fields"), then we will begin to do the things that Jesus did.
- Helping someone come into a saving, personal relationship with Jesus Christ is a team effort, not a one-man show. God needs both "sowers" and "reapers" (4:36-38).
- If you have the privilege of helping someone place their trust in Christ remember that there were people before you who did some work—"you have entered into their labor" (4:38).
- God can use one broken person to reach many people for Christ (4:39).
- When people meet and begin to truly understand who Jesus is, they want to spend more time with Him (4:40).
- The best way to reach people for Christ is to spend time with them (4:40-41).
- Jesus' words are powerful and will lead lost people to place their trust in Him (4:41-42).
- When people begin a personal relationship with Jesus Christ they no longer have to rely on what others have said about who Jesus really is. They believe in Him because they now know Him personally (4:42).

For Further Reflection and Application:

1. Read Jesus' words in John 4:34. What is your food? What motivates you as a follower of Christ? What areas of your everyday life tend to consume your mind and affections instead of focusing on doing the Father's will and accomplishing His work?
2. If Jesus were to tell you, "Lift up your eyes and look at the harvest," and you began to see the opportunities right in front of you, who would be standing there? Who has God put in your life with whom He wants you to be a faithful sower or reaper? Write down specific steps you can take to become a faithful sower or reaper.
3. Read 1 Peter 3:15. Part of being a faithful follower of Jesus is to be ready with an explanation of your faith in Jesus Christ. What does setting apart Christ as Lord in our hearts have to do with telling someone about Jesus? What would you say to lead someone into a personal relationship with Christ? If someone were to ask you about the hope that is in you, what would your answer be?