"Jesus and the Woman of Samaria, Conclusion"
(John 4:27-42)

Introduction: This evening, we will want to look at the conclusion of this story of Christ and the Woman of Samaria to see what further insight we might gain in the area of evangelism. So far we have seen the importance of discipleship, which includes baptizing and teaching new converts, God's Providence in supplying the opportunities, the importance of speaking to those who are around us, the use of conventional methods of gaining an audience, the use of the things of the natural world to lead to the knowledge of the spiritual, the use of what they already know of the truth of religion to bring them to a fuller knowledge of the truth, making sure that the one we are speaking with has a clear idea of the fundamentals of the Gospel, and the use of God's Law to reveal to them their sinfulness in His sight, that they might seek His solution to their sins, namely, the Savior.

Tonight, we will want to consider the zeal we must have, the vision that we will need, the importance of working together with others in this great endeavor, and the added benefit of the additional laborers which God will add through the Gospel, as we continue to see that

Christ calls us to seek and to save those who are lost.

I. First, Let's Consider the Added Benefit Which Those We Seek to Reach Can Add.

A. John Writes, "And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He had been speaking with a woman; yet no one said, 'What do You seek?' or, 'Why do You speak with her?'"

1. They marveled, perhaps, that Christ would speak of such things to a woman, or perhaps that He would do so to her alone, or perhaps it was the fact that she was a Samaritan woman that surprised them.
   a. Why would Christ speak to this despicable woman?
   b. Maybe they forgot what despicable men they were before the Savior saved them?
   c. Perhaps when we look at others and judge them unworthy of the Gospel, maybe we have forgotten how loathsome we were in the sight of God, before He granted us His grace?

2. But whatever the reason was, none of them opened their mouths. Perhaps by this time they learned that whenever they questioned the propriety of what Christ was doing, they always learned a sobering lesson about themselves.

B. But their coming provided the intermission that was necessary for the woman to decide what she was going to do with what Christ had told her.

1. Remember that Jesus had brought her to an understanding of her sins and of her need for what He had to offer.
2. And by this time she had also come to the realization that the One standing before her was more than just an ordinary man. Jesus Himself had told her that He has the Messiah.
3. Now she is at the cross-roads. What is she going to do with what she has heard?

4. What she decides to do when she sees all of Jesus' companions coming to Him is to take this opportunity to run into the city and to tell others.
   a. John writes, "So the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city, and *said to the men, 'Come, see a man who told me all the things that I *have* done; this is not the Christ, is it?' They went out of the city, and were coming to Him" (John 4:28-30).
   b. She appears to have been so excited that it removed any obstacle that she had in telling others. She went directly into the city and began to tell the men what Christ had said and urged them to come and listen to him to. "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done."
   c. In her response you can see that she wants to believe that this is the Messiah, but she still isn't sure. This One can't be the Christ. Or can He? Perhaps she wanted the men of the city to examine Him. Maybe they knew more of what the Scripture said than she did and could probe Him beyond what she was capable of doing.
   d. But for whatever reason, her talking to them about this man who claimed to be the Christ was enough to peak their curiosity. So they decided to go and see for themselves.
   e. Apparently, her testimony was enough even to convince some that He was the Messiah, for we read in verses 39-42, "And from that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, 'He told me all the things that I *have* done.' So when the Samaritans came to Him, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His word; and they were saying to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world.'"
   f. They believed first of all because of what the woman said. But after they went and heard the truth for themselves, from the One who is the truth, they believed on account of Christ.
   g. Our goal in witnessing is not that people would simply take our word for it, for a faith based on the credibility of a fallible person, one who can make mistakes, is bound to flounder sooner or later. Even though it must begin there, what is really needed is a faith in the One who is life itself, a faith that can only come through the infallible source of knowledge concerning this One, through the word of God. We must lead them to the source, and then let them drink for themselves.
   h. But notice the result that occurred through Christ's ministry to this one woman: many others also heard about Him and came to Him.
   i. Christ did not reach any of us personally, in the sense that we did not literally hear the Word from His lips. Rather, Christ entrusted His word to His disciples, who discipled others, who discipled others, and so on down the line. At some point, you and I came into contact with that line, either through a family member, personal friend, or a public communicator of that truth, by word or by book. Even if it was by reading a Bible that you found left by someone else, that Bible was probably printed and placed there by those who were disciples of Christ.
   j. This again shows us the importance of discipleship. The amount of work which can be done by two is usually twice as much as one. And the more people who can be equipped for service, the more the word will get out. Ultimately, it is in the hands of the Lord to save by many or by few, but at least we will be doing what it is that

the Lord has commanded us by getting the Word out.

k. Notice how serviceable this woman was to Christ at the very beginning of what might have been her own conversion. Not knowing anything except that this man had an extraordinary gift to know what was hidden, and that He claimed to be the Messiah, she went into the city and gathered a crowd of people to come and listen to Him.

l. If the Lord would use us to ignite just one dynamo like this, think of how much fruit would be produced. The Lord used John Wesley not only to greatly advance the kingdom through his preaching, but He also used him to be the early spiritual guide to that one who would later far outstrip him in zeal and effectiveness, the great George Whitefield.

m. May the Lord use us to do the same. May He use us to set aflame the hearts of others that they might give themselves wholly to His work!

II. But How Can He Use Us to Do This If Our Own Hearts Are Cold and Indifferent?

A. We must have a personal zeal for this work, or we will never be able to affect this in others. Christ was able to do so because of His zeal for the work.

1. John writes, "In the meanwhile the disciples were requesting Him, saying, 'Rabbi, eat.' But He said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' The disciples therefore were saying to one another, 'No one brought Him *anything* to eat, did he?' Jesus *said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.'"

2. Jesus was telling His disciples that doing the will of God was the most important thing to Him. This is what He lived for. The disciples, on the other hand, were more interested in other things.

a. The one who would affect others with the importance of evangelism, must also believe in his heart and soul that it is of the utmost importance.

b. It must be his food and drink. He must be completely absorbed in accomplishing the will of God.

c. But what a rebuke this is to the disciples. They seemed only interested in filling their stomachs, while Christ was interested in saving souls from destruction.

d. But how often are we like the apostles? There is work to be done, but we want to relax. There are souls perishing all around us, but we want to play. We are so tired of working that we want to recreate, while the world around us goes to hell.

e. The weight of perishing souls is a terrible burden to bear, one which is beyond our strength. But it is one which the Lord calls us to bear out of love for Him and love for our neighbor. And it is also one that He gives us the strength to bear through His Holy Spirit.

3. Christ tell us that we must find our main source of nourishment where He found it, in doing the will of the Father.

a. This was food that His disciples did not know about.

b. Now I believe that they were converted men, but they were still relatively immature. Neither the realization of these things, nor the intense desire for them, comes all at once. But certainly it must be there in some degree in the hearts of His children. All of the fruits of God's grace are placed at once in the heart of the true believer, but

they will always vary in degree.

c. But there comes a point in every Christian's life where they can honestly say that to do the will of Christ is more fulfilling than anything else. It is their greatest pleasure and is like a great feast of the best of foods.

d. We must strive to reach this level. This is what we are called to by God. We must earnestly seek the Lord for His grace. The more we are filled with His Spirit and the less we quench His operations through our sins, the more He will give it to us.

e. And the more we are consumed with zeal for the Lord and for His work, the more our lives will affect the lives of others, and the more the Lord will be able to use us in the lives of others.

f. Edwards once wrote that if Christians were to live as Christ calls us to, it would do more to advance His kingdom in the world than all of the sermons that could ever be preached.

g. The world has seen but few who have overcome their own passions enough so as to make a great impact for Christ.

h. But yet this is what Christ calls all of us to do, and perhaps by His grace, He will enable us to overcome for His glory.

B. But besides this zeal for the Lord, they must also have a vision for the work.

1. It is good to have an ardent fervor for the Lord, but without direction, it won't make much progress.

2. Christ here gives them that direction, by pointing them to what the will of the Father is.

a. He says, "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and *then* comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest'" (v. 35).

b. There may have been four months left until the harvest of grain, but there was a field which was already white to harvest.

c. Jesus tells them, "Lift up your eyes, look around you, see that even in this land of Samaria God has brought the harvest to its ripeness. It is time to put in the sickle and reap."

d. Christ again points His disciples to that which the Father sent Him to do, to seek and to save those who are lost, in order that they might be the next generation of laborers in His fields.

3. If we do not catch sight of our purpose in this world, there is little hope that we will accomplish very much as well.

a. We must remember that the church is *the* institution of redemption in this world, the only one with a divine commission.

b. It is not the para-church organization which has been called to this, any other wise than they, as individuals, are called as members of churches.

c. It is not to man-made societies, but to this divine society that the command is given.

d. We must have this purpose, this goal clearly before our eyes, and keep it before our eyes before we will ever be able to advance towards it.

e. One thing is for sure, if we are not aiming for it, we will certainly not hit it.

f. We must set our sights on that goal. And we must realize that we all have a part to play in it.

(i) All of us must be involved in praying for it, but some of us will be involved mainly in praying for this goal to be reached.
(ii) All of us must contribute financially to the work, but some of us will be mainly giving of our resources that the work may advance.
(iii) Some of us, not all, will be sent to other countries to preach the Gospel.
(iv) Some of us, not all, will be sent to this country, this state, this city to proclaim this good news.
(v) But certainly all of us will have some opportunities in our families, and among our friends and neighbors to bear witness of the truth of Christ.
(vi) But again, if our eyes are not on the work, we will miss every opportunity which the Lord provides.
(vii) We must overcome our weaknesses and frailties to press forward in this work, relying on God's strength to help us advance.
(viii) The time is short, the day of the Lord is near, if not in its fullness, certainly for us as individuals. We must work while it is day, for night is coming in which it will be too late.

4. But there is yet one more word of instruction for us here.
   a. Jesus says, "Already he who reaps is receiving wages, and is gathering fruit for life eternal; that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this *case* the saying is true, 'One sows, and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor" (vv. 36-38).
   b. Jesus tells us that there is a sowing and reaping process which must take place in evangelism. The disciples were sent to reap that which others had sown. The Samaritans had been sown mainly by the writings of Moses. because of this, they were now ripe for the Messiah, and He was reaping among them.
   c. We must bear in mind that the Lord may not use us to reap. He may instead use us to sow. During the time of Edwards, there were several awakenings which brought many people into the kingdom of God. But the ministers of New England desired to see more of God's glory revealed, so they sought Him earnestly in prayer. They covenanted together to pray not only among themselves, but also with the churches that shared the same faith overseas, in England and Scotland. These ministers never saw the answers to those prayers in this life. But the coming generation did see God's answer in the great missionary movements of the next century.
   d. God may use us to sow and to reap, to sow for others to reap, or to reap what others have sown.
   e. But whichever He chooses to be our labor in this life we must rejoice that He has chosen us at all to take part in this great and glorious task of bringing the good news of salvation to the lost. We must rejoice that Christ has chosen us to be His instruments of salvation.
   f. May our good and gracious Lord help each one of us to increase in our zeal for Him, may He give to each one of us a clearer vision of the work, and may He be pleased to use us to sow and to reap in His great harvest, that we, along with the angels, may rejoice on that great day of the Lord when He gives to His faithful servants the wages of His grace for their faithful work. May God strengthen each one of us in

this task. Amen.