

John 4:27-42, “The Wisdom of Winning Souls”

TODAY:

The two maps...

Pr. 11:30, “*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the one who wins souls is wise.*”

Outline:

Jn. 4:27-30, Christ uses the witness of those who are passionate for Him and willing to go.

Jn. 4:31-38, Christ encourages His followers to embrace a harvest mindset.

Jn. 4:39-42, Christ rewards those who actually go out to bring others to Him.

4:28, “*So the women left her water jar...*” – WHY?

1. She leaves her jar due to her excitement in telling others of the Messiah.
2. She leaves her jar so that Jesus could finally get a drink of water.
3. Symbolically, she won’t need the jar anymore since she now has the waters of life.

4:38, “*For here the saying holds true, “sow and another reaps.”*”

- **Sower:** sows anticipating what is to come (God uses my witness to enact mercy or justice)
- **Reaper:** never forgets the harvest he is experiencing is due to another’s sowing.
- 1 Cor. 3:5-8, “*What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each.⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.⁷ So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, **but only God who gives the growth.**⁸ He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor.*”

Questions on winning souls (being a witness):

- Am I as committed to the Lord’s work as He is?
- Am I willing to forego a meal, discomfort, or reputation for me to follow the Lord’s will?
- What are some of my self-made hindrances that keep me from carrying out the Lord’s will?

Advice on winning souls (being a witness):

1. Pay NO attention to the ‘success rate’ (**not** how God judges).
2 Cor. 2:15-16, [*W]e are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one an ODOR from death to death, to the other a FRAGRANCE from life to life...*”
2. Pray as you obey. Lk. 10:2, “*The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.*”
3. Get to work in the field the Lord has sovereignly put you. 1 Cor. 15:58, “*Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*”