

"What Are You Eating?"  
The Gospel of John Chapter 4:27-42

At the precise moment Jesus is revealing Himself to the woman as the Messiah, the disciples arrive from their errand. God's timing is always perfect (Gal. 4:4). If they arrive too soon, they interrupt the conversation; if too late, they miss Jesus' revelation and evangelistic outreach.

The woman leaves her water pot; she has not forgotten it (Jhn. 4:3, 52, 10:12, 14:18, 27). Jesus may use it until she returns, for she now understands that the wall of partition has been broken down (Eph. 2:11-18). She hastens unencumbered to the city to tell of the One who has revealed her sin.

The disciples are concerned about the Master's needs. They interpret Jesus' answer in a literal physical sense instead of the spiritual sense, just as Nicodemus (Jhn. 3:3-4) and the woman (Jhn. 4:10-15) had previously.

Jesus' answer to the food question demonstrates the particulars of His perspective. It is heavenly (Matt. 6:33; Col. 3:1-4), not earthly like theirs and perhaps ours. Food keeps us alive physically, but obeying the Father and doing His will keeps us alive spiritually (Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4; Heb. 4: 12). Jesus lived to please His Father (Matt. 3:17; Jhn. 6:29, 8:29). This is the Father's will for us (1Cor. 10:31; Eph. 5:17-21; 1 Thess. 4:3).

Jesus' words about the harvest are also to be understood in a spiritual sense. The fields were ripe because the Samaritans from the city were coming even as Jesus was speaking to the disciples. Jesus planted seeds of repentance and faith in the woman. She planted seeds about the Christ in the city. The disciples would ultimately see a great harvest in Samaria (Acts 8:425). The Samaritans from the city came to know the Savior of the world (1Jhn. 4:18) through a personal encounter with Christ. So it must be for all who will experience eternal life (Jhn. 3:16; Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9-10, 13).

Jesus' life on this earth was preparation for the cross. Before He begins His public ministry He spends forty days fasting in the wilderness, tempted by the Devil (Matt. 4: 1-11). He was well prepared to miss one meal to speak to a lost soul in need of the Savior. We are soldiers of Christ. We must be trained and prepared and continue until God calls us home (Matt. 16:24; 2Tim. 2:3-4). The warfare in which we are engaged is not primarily physical, but spiritual (Eph. 6: 12). We must put on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:10-20)! We are to believe in God and His Son and follow their orders (Jhn. 5:24, 6:29, 14:15, 23-24, 15:9-17).