

**# 14 - John 4:27-38**

**Need:** To see how Jesus interacted with people in great need and the result of such action.

**Aim:** To understand how Jesus interacted with people in great need and to witness the result of such action to spur believes to obey God's call to bear witness.

**Title:** "Desperate Need" – Part III

**Prop:** In Jn. 4:1-45, Jesus **I. Avoided Religious Conflict – 4:1-6** and instead had an **II. Encounter With The Unlovely – 4:7-26**, followed by a **III. Call To Service – 4:27-45** as many in our own circle of influence are ripe for spiritual harvest.

**Intro:** During my second year of seminary, the Grace Brethren National Conference was held in Winona Lake, IN. I was able to witness conference firsthand. I went to some of the main business sessions and watched the battle, things which I considered minor issues, about church policies. I was amazed by the passion which both sides displayed during the debate.

During the conference a missionary to the Philippines spoke in an afternoon service which I found somewhat disturbing. He spoke passionately from this very passage that we will consider this morning. I was appalled at how he applied this message as he spoke of the masses of people in the islands of the Philippines who had not heard the gospel message. This man couldn't reach them all because as he said "**I personally wasn't there and I didn't care enough.**" He went on for quite a long time laying guilt upon the delegates for not going and not caring for the great need.

I understand that he was working with limited resources and longed for others to join him, but God didn't call me to the Philippines. It wasn't an issue of not going, nor not giving or even not caring. It was an issue of calling. The last place I wanted to be was in a ministry for which I was not called, nor gifted to handle. I was willing to serve God where ever He wanted me to go, but foreign missions were not an option. Even then I had health issues which would have caused me to not pass the required physical.

Also I have seen couples go to the mission field full of expectations and funding only to last one term or less, divorce and move on to other occupations. One such man, seminary educated went to the mission field, lasted one year, took a church in the Fellowship and lasted 18 months. At last report he was cleaning carpets for a living. There is nothing wrong with that other than that he had been trained for pastoral ministry.

In this passage, Jesus spoke to His disciples about the abundant opportunity for the harvest of souls, just as ready for conversion as this woman at the well was, she was saved and now spreading the message within her own village about Jesus and His promise of eternal life.

**Transition:** The call to serve was issued to all who have trusted Christ as Savior. Not all are called to the foreign mission field, as Jesus spoke of the need for a harvest within the context of our own circle of influence.

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### **III. Call To Service – Jn. 14:27-45**

#### **A. Context (4:1-26)**

- 1. Journey** – In the first several verses, Jesus broke down barriers by traveling from Judea north to Galilee straight through Samaria. The Samaritans were half-breeds, odious to true full-blooded Jews. They avoided any contact with their neighbors to the north.
- 2. Contact at the Well** – Jesus paused for a respite from His journey about noon at Jacob’s well, in the area of Samaria, just outside the town of Sychar. The disciples went on into town to purchase food, while He waited at the well. As He paused a woman came to draw water. She didn’t come at the traditional times, in the cool of the morning or cool of the evening.

She came at a time when no one else would be there, because she was a woman of ill-repute, a prostitute. She was an outcast from Jewish society.

**3. Transformation** – Through her encounter with Jesus the woman found salvation. She met face to face with the Son of God and her heart and life were transformed. Her sin and despair just melted away.

**Transformation: In verse 27 we pick up the story line with the appearance of the disciples.**

### **B. Jesus And His Disciples**

**1. Mission** – In verse 8, Jesus sent His disciples into town while He waited by the well. He had a divine appointment with a woman in desperate need. In verse 27 the disciples arrived just as Jesus was finishing with this woman.

**2. Amazed!** – The Twelve were simply amazed that Jesus had been speaking with this disgusting individual. He had broken through so many barriers here. Jesus pushed through the racial barrier, He being a Jew and she a Samaritan. He broke with social convention, speaking with a woman. Jesus also pushed through a moral barrier because she was obviously a prostitute. The disciples would have ascertained this fact by her appearance and by her presence at the well during the heat of the day. They were literally stunned, yet kept silent, all the while thinking: **“Who do You seek?”** or **“Why do You speak with her?”** **“What is going on here?”**

The disciples were reeling. Jesus has chosen to walk through Samaria which must have raised some eyebrows. He sent them to town to buy food from the vile Samaritans. Then they find Him speaking with a Samaritan woman, one of questionable lifestyle. What next?

Jesus was teaching the lesson that no one is worthy of the gift of salvation, but everyone, no matter what the circumstances or situations of life, anyone can receive it through the simple act of faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

### **C. Confess Jesus... (28-30)**

- 1. Radical Action (28-29)** – In verse 28, the woman forgot her immediate physical need, ran into town and shouted out: **“Come, see a man who told me all the things I have done; this is not the Christ is it?!”** Jesus had made an immediate and eternal impact upon this woman and she began to confess Jesus as Savior to all the members of her village, most of who had rejected her and shunned her in the past.
- 2. Spiritual Expectation or Curiosity? (30)** – With divine imagination I envision that some came because of a contact with this woman in the past, but suffice it say they were curious and came to see Jesus at the invitation of this woman.

## **D. Call to Serve (31-34)**

**1. Disciples' Dismay (31)** – As she ran off, the disciples were not sure what had just happened. They had brought food, presented it to Jesus and asked Him to eat and He responded that He had already eaten! So in verse 33 the disciples' confusion continued: **“No one brought Him anything to eat, did he?”** They did not ascertain the big picture but focused on the temporal things.

**2. Spiritual Plane (32)** – Continuing on in verse 32, Jesus was in spiritual mode as He referred to spiritual food while the disciples were stuck on physical needs. They, like many of us were stuck on the minuscule things of life. We fail to see the big picture and thus make bad choices based solely on the situation at hand. We don't consider the long term effects of bad choices, made in the heat of the moment and don't stop to consider what God's Word teaches.

I can't imagine the confusion of the disciples at this point. Jesus had done **“everything wrong”** from the get go. He led them through Samaria, sent them to buy food in town, met a woman of ill-repute, and spoken at length. Then she rushes off to the city and He is speaking about food which He had eaten which they didn't perceive. It was just too much to process at the time.

After college I took time off to begin to process all the things I had been taught. The arrogance I graduated with took years to wash away; Seminary was different. It was much more than information. I learned the tools; languages were a huge part of the process. Then I wrestled with important issues and the parameters. Then I was left to work out theological matters out for myself. They became mine not something a teacher had taught. However, when I became pastor things that I had been taught in seminary were less dark and light. There was a pragmatic manner to ministry within bounds of scripture. I am sure that by the time John wrote this gospel he had processed the event, even though he presented it as it happened.

**3. God's Will Brings Life (34)** – Jesus was sustained by doing God's will and doing the mission which God had called Him to do. It didn't mean that Jesus didn't eat, but His main focus was doing God's will. To do that He would need physical food, but His focus was elsewhere. In every situation He encountered, Jesus could always see the bigger picture of what was transpiring and thus was able to make perfect choices. Jesus offers the same perspective to us through the presence of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we spend more time concerned about the world around us as it unfolds before us, without any forethought about the future and purpose of life.

We stumble from situation to situation, living from day to day and one day we wake up and realize that life has indeed passed us by. All the things which once were so important have just faded away and we find ourselves faced with our own mortality. Our life has been consumed by temporal things and spiritual aspects we failed to consider. We have failed to face the future, the eternal future of our souls. Let's be aware and not be consumed with temporal things of this world and let the spiritual things take a back seat.

### **E. Harvest Time! (35-38)**

**1. Ripe & Ready (35)** – When I lived in Beaver City Nebraska, a small farming community, I learned to recognize harvest time as I had been instructed what to look for. Winter wheat was planted in the fall, popped up through the ground and then went dormant during the winter. With the warm temperatures and rain in the spring the wheat began to grow. The fields were green with growing grain. In July the fields turned golden, as the full head of grain was ready to harvest.

Jesus used a well-known act of nature to illustrate the desperate, needy people ready for spiritual harvest. The opportunity is always present.

**2. Eternal Rewards (36-37)** – In verses 36-37, Jesus took the analogy of harvest in verse 35 and applied it to evangelism.

Those who reap the harvest of souls are producing eternal fruit, introducing people to Jesus and eternal life. Jesus presented the two parts of the process as one plants, another one harvests, but it is God alone who causes the growth.

**3. Go! (38)** – In verse 38 Jesus sent forth all His disciples, down through the tunnel of the ages to reap the harvest, one made ready by God, planted by others.

I find no call to foreign missions here for me, though I am thankful for those who do go overseas. I do find that I have the responsibility as a believer to share my faith, plant the seed and if God deems it, to harvest the soul. We are all called to plant, cultivate and then harvest the souls of those around us, in our own circle of influence. Not all are called to full-time Christian service. All are called to cross the street or be a light in the work place; everywhere we find ourselves, we are called to reach out to this sick and dying world. To seek out the lost and plant the seed of God's love for each and every one who crosses our path. We are all called to share the eternal truth that Jesus saves. He died on the cross that we might have eternal life. He sent the Holy Spirit to reside within us to give us the desire to love and serve God.

We show we are Christians by what we do and through the choices we make. The Holy Spirit is changing us from the inside out. We now have hope and we need to heed the call of God to give hope to a hopeless and broken world. Jesus died that we might live! What greater news than this?

**“Desperate Need – Part II - 4:27-38**

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**III. Call To Service – Jn. 14:27-45**

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3. Transformation

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