

“Jesus: the Soul Winner”

The Vine Series... John 15:5

SCRIPTURE

John 4: 27-34 (NIV)

²⁷ Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?” ²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹ “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?”

³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way toward him. ³¹ Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.” ³³ Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?”

³⁴ “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

³⁵ Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. ³⁶ Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. ³⁷ Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. ³⁸ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

Subject Question: What three questions are raised in John’s Gospel concerning Jesus’ Soul Winner role?

Compliment answer: Can this Be? Can this Satisfy? Can this Count?

Big Idea: The three questions that are raised in John’s gospel concerning Jesus’ Soul Winner role are; can this be, can this satisfy, and can this count?

Homiletical Idea: “God is teaching”

Purpose: I want the congregation to consider for themselves Jesus example of being a soul winner. But more, to ask ourselves if we are responding to Jesus invitation and call to be about the business of soul winning ourselves?

Introduction: This is the fourth in a series that we will be exploring concerning the passage in John’s gospel where Jesus states, *I am the vine, you are the branches, He who abides in me and I in them, He it is who bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.* We will be looking at what it means to be “abide-ers” in this series. We continue our study by considering Jesus’ Soul

winning role. Jesus came to seek and to save that which is lost. In the story of the Samaritan woman at the well in John's gospel, we see Jesus in action. But more than that... We, as His beloved disciples are given three life-changing questions that we need to ask and answer for ourselves.

(This makes a Difference)

- A. Can this be? (vs.27-29) - *²⁷ Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" ²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹ "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?"*
- B. After coming into the presence of Jesus, the woman at the well was left to ask herself the question, can this be true. Can this be the Messiah? But more, can this be my messiah?
- C. As with everyone Jesus is calling to himself one has to go beyond what others have said about Christ, and the answer for oneself. What scare a lot of people is knowing as the woman at the well, that Jesus "knows" everything about us. It's our own feeling of inadequacy and unworthiness that we encounter that oft times keep us from coming to Jesus but also are the very thing that drive us to Him.
- D. What the woman was really asking is "Can this be someone" someone representing the God whom I've always feared who knows me and yet accepts me, and now offers me what I could only dream of having: peace with God and peace with myself in this world where I can't find any? For the woman she could only assert:

(This makes a Difference)

- A. Can this satisfy? (Vs. 30-34) *³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way toward him. ³¹ Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." ³³ Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?" ³⁴ "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.*
- B. In reaching across the boundaries of religion and tradition Jesus examples His soul winning heart for every true disciple who truly admires the loving acceptance of the "wrong" kind of people" into the good graces of God. People might not measure up to our standards, but calls

and redeems the most unlikely of people. And thank the lord that He does, because, consider yourself.

- C. His statement that His very sustenance, His food, is to do the will of his Father simply shows that the answer to the question, Can this satisfy, is yes. O yes, It's better than life itself.
- D. The question for us as disciples is actually twofold: First: Are we satisfied knowing Jesus in our own hearts, loving the fact the He loves us. I certainly hope so. Second, are we willing to be satisfied showing Jesus through our own hands and own feet and own mouths, loving the fact that Jesus loves others. And He proves it by loving them through me. I certainly pray so. What Jesus seems to be implying about soul winning:

(This makes a Difference)

- A. Can this count? (Vs. 35-38) ³⁵ *Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. ³⁶ Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. ³⁷ Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. ³⁸ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."*
- B. I believe the last question is directed at you and me. But we first have to consider the first two questions the text implies. Can this be? Can Jesus be the Messiah, the true and only hope for humanity? Do we honestly buy into His proclamation that He is the Way, He is the Truth and He is the Life? Can he be not only the Savior, but my savior, and everyone who will put their trust in him?
- C. Does this satisfy is a real question to you and I that goes to the heart of who Jesus is why Jesus same. Are we hungry for the things that seemed to satisfy Him? Is bringing people to Him or at least to His church to be around His people and watching as Jesus changes that person really better than food itself. Are we hungry for the things not only of God but the things that nail down for us the question can this be—can he be the Son of God?
- D. Can this count? Notice that Jesus doesn't put all the onus on our individual efforts in someone coming to Christ. It's a chain of persons. Others sow, we read. We sow, others reap. But we are a link in the

chain of events that lead to a person's eternal destiny. And a chain is only as good as its weakest link. The message here is get hungry for souls. Get busy for Jesus. Get happy because... This makes a Difference