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:38 The disciples are invited to join in the harvest which Jesus has prepared. Perhaps :38 is an allusion to the preaching of John the Baptist or to the prophets of old. The sowing is never in vain; the seed is never wasted.

It is the reaper who receives the reward, but the joy of the sower and reaper is the same—joy in doing the Father’s will and finishing His work.

Read :39-42. :39 From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word (logos) of the woman who testified, “He told me all the things that I have done.” :40 So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days.

:39-40 Many come to Jesus by believing the word of others. The basis for belief? The testimony (word) of others and personal contact with Jesus. He remained there only 2 days, limiting His Father’s work to that small Samaritan village. But what miraculous changes took place because of His doing the Father’s will. The Samaritans received God’s gift (:10), followed Jesus, and enjoyed eternal life. God’s truth requires a response; we see how they responded.

:41 Many more believed because of His word (logos). The Word of Jesus. He and His Word is what we proclaim! :42 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.” Faith is a living trust that rests upon the Person and word of Jesus. No miracles or ‘signs’; the woman and villagers believed because of His words!

Jesus said to Thomas in **20:29**, “**Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.**”

The settled conviction expressed in “**We know**”. From a faith built on the witness of another to a faith built on their own experience with Jesus. Personal contact with the Savior Jesus is necessary to make faith complete.

Jesus not only teaches but also saves, and His salvation extends to the world. **1:29 “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**

Savior: John uses it only here and **1 Jn. 4:14**. See other passages like **Mt. 1:21, Lk. 2:11, Acts 5:31, 13:23, Eph. 5:23, Phil. 3:20, 2 Tim. 1:10, Titus 1:4, 2:13, 3:6, 2 Pet. 1:1,11, 2:20, 3:2,18**. Also see **2 Cor. 5:19, 1 Jn. 2:2, 4:14**.

From being a ‘travel-weary and thirsty’ Jewish man, to a prophet, to the Christ, to the Savior of the world! All based around living water. Life is not found in Torah, in Temple worship, in Jacob’s water, even in a miracle. Life is in Jesus. **He who has the Son has the life (1 Jn. 5:12).**

“The woman with the messed-up life, who worships at the wrong mountain, drinks living water and an entire village believes.” Jesus certainly hadn’t experienced this response among the Jews. Samaria stands in stark contrast to Galilee and Judea. “While scribes and Pharisees stand aside, the pagan world flocks into the kingdom.” See **Lk. 15:1-2**. You still see this today.

Knowing Jesus as Lord eliminates the need to return to the well. Yet instead of going to Jesus Himself, we tend to go to various wells to quench our thirst.

Do we want to enter into the work and joy of the Father? It’s a question of entering into the work of the Father as we travel from Jerusalem, to Galilee, through Samaria.

Never underestimate the testimony of one person. We can trust that Jesus will reveal Himself to people as we share our story and His Word.

The Word of God is a seed capable of producing an immense harvest (**read Mk. 4:8,20**).

Practical Ways to **Apply** God’s Word:

1. Start with **Jesus (Mt. 11:28-30)** and fix your focus on Him (**Heb. 12:1-3**).
2. Practice ECRAT: Examine, Confess, Review, Allow, and Thank. How will Jesus live out His life and love uniquely through you as you trust Him in your immediate family, in the family of God, and as an individual Christian?
3. Be careful who you listen to, what you watch and read, and what you’re continually thinking about. Choose & be a good role model. Be sure there’s a steady input from God’s Word. Pray without ceasing. Realize there’s a glorious, certain, guaranteed future for you and every other Christian.

Remember, this is a life and love only Jesus through the Holy Spirit can live in/through you! Yet He will as you by faith run the race set before you (**Heb. 12:1-2a**).

Lessons you learned? Applications you made? Questions you have? What impact does this passage have on your daily walk with Jesus?

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