

John 4:31-38 His Disciples urged Jesus to eat food, Jesus said My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

Jhn 4:31 In the meantime His disciples (**continued to**) urged Him(**Jesus**), saying, "Rabbi (**Teacher**), eat."

Jhn 4:32 But He(**Jesus**) said to them (**His disciples**), "**I have food to eat of which you do not know (I have a kind of food that you don't understand).**"

Most likely Jesus reminded them of Deut. 8:3 where Moses states

Deu 8:3 "So He(**God**) humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

Mat 4:4 But He(**Jesus**) answered and said, "**It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'**"

Jesus was not saying that food and drink and rest are not important because they are, many on mission fell down because of dehydration and lack of energy. Jesus wanted His disciples to know that life was more than those things; that man does not eat or live by bread alone.

Jhn 4:33 Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone (**at any other time**) brought Him(**Jesus**) anything to eat?"

Jhn 4:34 Jesus said to them(**His disciples**), "**My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work (My nourishment comes from knowing and doing the will of My Father in heaven and to complete (finish, finalize) it, This verse shows the obedience of Jesus to God in His ministry and foreshadows His words on the Cross, It is finished Jhn 19:30 below).**"

Psa 40:7 Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me.

Psa 40:8 I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart."

Jhn 17:4 "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. (**Obedience and dependence upon God's will summed up Jesus' whole life, Jhn 6:38-40 below).**

Jhn 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

Jhn 6:39 "This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.

Jhn 6:40 "And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

**Jhn 19:30** So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

**Job 23:12** I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food. (God's Word was more precious to Job than even the food he needed to sustain his physical life. Job valued hearing and obeying God, even while he was suffering deeply and could not understand why God had allowed his circumstances, yet he still wanted to remain faithful)

Do I treasure God's Word enough to let it guide me when obedience is difficult, when my prayers seem unanswered, or when I cannot understand what God is doing, do we still desire to stay faithful?

**James 1:22:** "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (Treasuring God's Word means not only knowing it but also seeking to live it out).

#### Quotes from David Guzik commentary on Blue Letter Bible

iii. The experience of countless others through the centuries has proved Jesus true in this statement. There is nothing more satisfying than doing the work of God, whatever that is for the particular believer. Though this is counter-intuitive and against our natural self-seeking, it is true.

iv. "The man of the world thinks that, if he could have his own way, he would be perfectly happy and his dream of happiness in this state or in the next is comprised in this, that his own wishes will be gratified, his own longings fulfilled, his own desires granted to him. This is all a mistake. A man will never be happy in this way." (Spurgeon)

v. Jesus found great satisfaction in doing the will of God even when He was weary. In fact, the conscious doing of God's will refreshed the weary Jesus. "The bodily thirst (and hunger probably, from the time of day) which our Lord had felt before, had been and was forgotten in the carrying on of His divine work in the soul of this Samaritan woman." (Alford)

**Jhn 4:35** "Do you not say (Don't say), 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold (listen up), I say to you (I am telling you), lift up your eyes (have eyes to see) and look at the fields, for they are already white (ripe, ready) for harvest!

Jesus was showing them an opportunity for a spiritual harvest now. . A crop of believers is now being gathered into God's kingdom, some Samaritans who are going to believe in Jesus. Jesus knew the hearts of all and was able to state their readiness for salvation (cf. 39–41).

I am reminded at Uturn for Christ, when God put on my heart to share the gospel before sharing the message.

**Jhn 4:36 "And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together (What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester (sower and reaper)).**

The reaper of a spiritual harvest receives wages—that is, fruit which brings joy.

1Thes 2:19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

Pro 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise.

Dan 12:3 Those who are (spiritually) wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn (or lead) many to righteousness (will shine) Like the stars forever and ever.

1Cor 9:19 For though I (Paul) am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;

1Cor 9:20 and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law;

1Cor 9:21 to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I (Paul) might win those who are without law;

1Cor 9:22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

1Cor 9:23 Now this I (Paul) do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.

James 5:20 let him know (remember) that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul (his soul) from death and cover (or have forgiveness of) a multitude of sins.

Luk 5:9 For he(Simon Peter) and all who were with him (in the boats) were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken;

Luk 5:10 and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men."

**Jhn 4:37 "For in this (case or instance) the saying is true: 'One (person) sows and another (person) reaps.'**

It is the Lord that brings the increase:

1Cor 3:5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?

1Cor 3:6 I (Paul) planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

1Cor 3:7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

1Cor 3:8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

1Co 3:9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.

**Jhn 4:38 "I sent you to reap that (crop), for which you have not labored (or planted); others have labored (done the work), and you have entered into their labors (both privileged to join in the fruit of their results)."**

Jesus' disciples were reaping what others had sowed, which may have been John the Baptist and his disciples before them.

In the Old Testament, one of the primary judgments for Israel's sin was agricultural drought and famine (Amos 4:6-8). Amos gives us Old Testament prophecy about the future Millennium kingdom (see Isaiah 11 or Joel 3 for changes in nature)

Amo 9:13 NLT – "The time will come," says the LORD, "when the grain and grapes will grow faster than they can be harvested. Then the terraced vineyards on the hills of Israel will drip with sweet wine!

**Application:** The disciples just returned with physical food. Jesus responds that His food is to do the will of the Father, telling them to lift up their eyes because the fields are white ready for harvest. Your spiritual mission must take priority over physical comfort. Believers must look past routine daily distractions to see the immediate spiritual harvest field right in front of them and respond.

**Matthew 9:37-38:** The urgency of prayer for missions. Jesus tells His disciples that the harvest is truly plentiful but the laborers are few, commanding them to pray earnestly for laborers to go to the harvest.

**Romans 10:14-15:** The necessity of going. Paul tracks the logical chain of the harvest: people cannot call on God and believe, if they have not heard, and they cannot hear without someone preaching.

### **John 4:39-45 Many Samaritans Believed Because Of a Woman's Testimony and More Believe Because Of Jesus Words**

**We will read previous section for understanding and context:**

Jhn 4:25 The woman (**at the well**) said to Him(**Jesus**), "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things."

Jhn 4:26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He (**Christ**)."

Jhn 4:29 "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"

Jhn 4:30 Then they(**Samaritans**) went out of the city and came to Him(**Jesus**).

The Samaritans only accepted the first five books of Moses (the Pentateuch): Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Because they only read Moses, they didn't picture the Messiah as a conquering royal King from the line of David (like the Jews did,

based on the Prophets). Instead, their view of the coming Savior was mainly built on a specific prophecy found in Deu 18:18 'I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.

Jesus leaves Judea and intentionally travels through Samaria, overriding deep traditions of man, entrenched racial, gender, and religious prejudices to speak to a marginalized, outcast a Samaritan woman.

Application: Christians must intentionally cross cultural and social boundaries to share the Gospel. We cannot allow personal prejudices or societies friction to dictate who we offer the grace of God to.

Jhn 4:39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed (**trusted**) in Him(**Jesus as Savior**) because of the word (**or report**) of the woman who testified (**by sharing her testimony**), "He (**Christ**) told me all (**everything**), that, I ever did (**or He told me all the things that I have done, from v29, she was amazed that Jesus knew the facts of her life, but also that He loved her even knowing the facts of her life. Fear says if someone really knows me, they will not like me**)."

The phrase "many of the Samaritans" is a blanket term for the whole community—men, women, and families alike. Her testimony was so urgent, bold, and exciting that she bypassed all social customs to make sure everyone in the city knew that the Messiah (Christ) was sitting right outside at Jacob's well.

#### Later: Christ Is Preached in Samaria

Act 8:4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.

Act 8:5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.

Act 8:14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them,

Act 8:15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

Jhn 4:40 So when the Samaritans had come to Him(**Jesus**), they urged (**ask**) Him to stay (**remain**) with them(**Samaritans in their city**); and He(**Jesus**) stayed there two days.

Jhn 4:41 And many more believed because of His own word (**or because of His words many others became believers**).

Luk 4:32 And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority.

**Jhn 6:63 (Jesus said)"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing (it provides no help). The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life (providing eternal life).**

**Jhn 4:42** Then they (**those new believers**) said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him(**Jesus**) and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world (**cross-cultural evangelism: Act 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth).**")"

**Cross-reference:**

**1Jhn 4:14** And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son (**Christ, Jesus**), as Savior of the world.

**Jhn 6:68** But Simon Peter answered Him(**Jesus**), "Lord, to whom (**or where**) shall we go? You (**alone**) have the words of eternal life.

**Jhn 6:69** "Also we have come to believe (**trust**) and know (**beyond a doubt**) that You are the Christ (**Holy One of God**), the Son of the living God."

**Correlation passages:**

**1Tim 4:10** For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

**1Tim 2:3-6** For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom (a substitutionary sacrifice) for all, to be testified in due time (**revealing God's purpose at His appointed time**),

**Tit 2:11** For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men (**what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them (see Rom 1:18-21) (or the grace of God which is undeserved comes through Jesus, who is the source of salvation for everyone, but the ones who will benefit, are those who believe and accept Jesus as Savior and Lord).**)

**Jhn 4:43** Now after the two days, He(**Jesus**) departed from there (**Samaria**) and went to Galilee.

**This journey from Sychar (Samaria) to Cana (Galilee) would have taken two or three days on foot, approximately 40-50 miles.**

**Jhn 4:44** For Jesus Himself testified (**made known, declared**) that a prophet has no honor in his own country (**hometown Mat 13:57**). (**This probably explains why Jesus turned toward the broader region of Galilee, rather than going to His local hometown of Nazareth, where He knew local familiarity would breed rejection**).

### Jesus was Rejected at Nazareth because of Unbelief:

Mark 6:1 NLT – Jesus left that part of the country and returned with his disciples to Nazareth, his hometown.

Mark 6:2 NLT – The next Sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. They asked, "Where did he get all this wisdom and the power to perform such miracles?"

Mark 6:3 NLT – Then they scoffed, "He's just a carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us." They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him.

Mark 6:4 NLT – Then Jesus told them, "**A prophet is honored everywhere, except in his own hometown, and among his relatives and his own family.**"

Mark 6:5 NLT – And because of their unbelief, he could not do any miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them.

**Jhn 4:45** So when He(**Jesus**) came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast (**Jewish Passover celebration**); for they also had gone to the feast.

Passover celebration: It began immediately the day after Passover and lasted for 7 days.

- It commemorated Israel's hasty exit from Egypt. They left so fast their bread didn't have time to rise (Exo 12:39). Leaven (yeast) was removed from homes as a symbol of leaving the corrupting influence of Egyptian bondage behind.
- New Testament Fulfillment: Christ's sacrifice as the ultimate Passover Lamb, cleansing believers from the "leaven" of sin and malice (... Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us 1Cor 5:7-8).

Deu 16:16 "Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed (**By the New Testament, for those who lived far away the goal was at least once a year (usually for Passover), or at least once in a lifetime if they lived really far away like Rome and Asia**).

Galileans welcomed Jesus and were very interested, having seen and heard about His miracles, some had a superficial welcome, signs-based faith-a miracle worker or local celebrity? It seems that the Galileans welcomed His miracles, but they did not honor His lordship. But some toward the end of the next paragraph responded differently to miracles and it shows a transition from seeing a miracle to genuine belief, Jhn 4:53.

This is where Jesus performed these initial public signs and cleansed the temple at the Passover in Jerusalem.

Jhn 2:23 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did.

Jhn 2:24 But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men,

Jhn 2:25 and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man (He can discern their hearts).

### Miracles and believe in Jesus

Jhn 11:43 Now when He(Jesus) had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"

Jhn 11:44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."(Lazarus was dead but now is alive it was another miracle Jesus did)

Jhn 11:45 Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did (miracles), believed (and trusted) in Him.

### John 4:46-54 Jesus Heals a Royal Official's Son who was about to Die

Jhn 4:46 So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made (or turned) the water wine (Jhn 2:1-11). And there was a certain nobleman (probably a royal official of Herod Antipas) whose son was sick at Capernaum (Capernaum was about 18-25 miles from Cana).

Jhn 4:47 When he(nobleman) heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored (repeatedly asked, begged) Him(Jesus) to come down and heal his son, for he (his son) was at the point of death.

Jhn 4:48 Then Jesus said to him(nobleman), "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you (you is plural meaning people) will by no means believe."

### Correlation passage:

1Cor 1:22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom;

1Cor 1:23 but we preach Christ crucified (death & resurrection), to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,

1Cor 1:24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

This does not mean one should view signs (miracles) negatively. To the contrary, Jesus' miracles are one of the primary means God uses to bring people to faith in him

Jhn 4:49 The nobleman said to Him(Jesus), "Sir, come down (please at once) before my child dies!"

Jhn 4:50 Jesus said to him(nobleman), "Go your way; your son lives." So the man (nobleman) believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way (home).

He believed Jesus could heal that is not enough to save a person

**Jhn 4:51** And as he(**nobleman**) was now going down (**the road home**), his servants met him and told him, saying, "Your son (**boy**) lives (**and is well**)!"

**Jhn 4:52** Then he(**nobleman**) inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour (**Roman time or 1pm Jewish time**) the fever left him."

**Jhn 4:53** So the father (**nobleman**) knew that it was at the same (**exact**) hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives." And he himself believed, and his whole household (**When he realized that his son had been healed, he knew that Jesus was more than a mere man. The nobleman then placed his faith in Jesus as Messiah (Christ) and was born again**).

**Jhn 4:54** This again is the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee (**referring to the second sign Jesus performed in Cana revealing Himself as the Messiah. Jesus also performed signs in Jerusalem (see Jhn 2:23; 3:2; 4:45).**

John gives us more evidence to the fact that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. So that by believing, you might have life, eternal life, abundant life in His name.

May the Lord be with you, bless you, have his hand upon you and may that water of life flow from your life to the thirsty world around you.

**End**

### **Seven Signs in the Gospel of John**

- John 2:1-11 Jesus turns water into wine.
- John 4:46-54 Healing of the nobleman's son.
- John 5:1-15 Healing at the pool of Bethesda.
- John 6:1-14 Feeding the 5,000 men plus families.
- John 6:15-21 Jesus walks on water.
- John 9:1-12 Healing of the man born blind.
- John 11:1-44 Lazarus raised from the dead.

**It looks like Jesus needed to go because of a divine appointment.**

**Check out what happened when Jesus arrived in Samaria**

John 4:7: Jesus met a Samaritan woman at the well.

John 4:10: He offered her living water.

John 4:25–26: He revealed Himself to her as the Messiah.

John 4:28–30: The woman went into the city and told others about Him.

John 4:39–42: Many Samaritans believed in Jesus.

Notice the progression: Jesus went to Samaria, met one woman, and through her testimony many people came to believe in Him. This suggests that His journey was not merely about reaching Galilee. He was going where the Father had a work for Him to do.