

This is the last message in our series, the first was coming in, to worship, last weeks going out – to witness and today's is let's eat.

This week is Let's Eat and it's from John 4:5 **so he, referring to Jesus came to a city of Samaria, which is called a Sychar near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son, Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there, Jesus, therefore being wearied sat by the well, it was about the sixth hour.**

That means it was about 12 noon.

**a woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, give me a drink for his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food,** remember that phrase, that his disciples had gone away in Samaria to buy food.

Okay, here's what I want you to know about this.

Jesus was hungry. He was thirsty. He was hungry because they went to buy food. He was thirsty because he asked for a drink and he was tired. Jesus was a human being. He became a human and humans get tired, humans get hungry, humans get thirsty.

Now he has a conversation with this woman and then his disciples come back and I want you to notice what happens when they come back, and then we'll go back to the conversation later in the message. John 4:31 **in the meantime, his disciples urged him saying, rabbi eat but he said to them, I have food to eat, of which you do not know. Therefore, the disciples said to one another, has anyone brought him anything?**

Notice the disciples never got it. He's talking about spiritual food. They're saying, did someone give him something to eat while we were gone?

Jesus said them Verse 34 **my food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work.** To do the will and to finish the work, do the will, finish the work, notice these words.

Go on ahead to John 6:22-59, God's word is the bread of heaven, it is spiritual food. We know it talks about the water of life. It's drunk as well, but remember this, God's word is spiritual food. God's will is spiritual food, and God's word is spiritual food.

God's word, God's will, and God's work for us is our spiritual food.

Have you ever been hungry, tired and thirsty? Jesus was tired and hungry and thirsty. Have you ever been tired and hungry and someone wanted to talk to you and you said something or thought something like this?

If you could just wait just and just let me sit down for a moment and eat something. I'd rather have this conversation after I eat. Anyone here ever thought anything like that? Why? Because food refreshes us and energizes us physically.

Is it possible that Spiritual food refreshes us and energizes us Spiritually? And is it possible now, not taking anything away from reading the Bible every day, but that's only part of God's food? Here's what Jesus said, my food, is the Word of God, my food is to do the will and to finish the work.

Some of us are starving Spiritually because we don't read the word, we don't do the will and we don't finish the work. We don't read the word or eat the word. Study the Word, memorize the Word, meditate on the Word. We don't do the will. And by the way, if you go back to some of those scriptures, he said, read this word and meditate on it that you may do it.

So we need to read the word, do the will, and finish the work. And here's what I mean by let's eat, let's do the work of God. Let's do the will of God. Let's eat spiritually. Here are some things to notice about this story.

Here's number one.

Jesus shared his story. When this woman began talking with him, Jesus actually shared his story with her. Watch this. Look at verse 9-14, **then the woman of Samaria said to him, how is it that you being a Jew, ask a drink from me a Samaritan woman. For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered and said to her, if you knew the gift of God and who it is who says to you, give me a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water. The woman said to him, notice he's on the spiritual conversation, she's back on a natural conversation. Sir, you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where then do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this well and drank from it himself as well as his sons and his livestock? By the way, the answer to that is yes. Jesus answered and said to her, whoever drinks of this water, natural water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him Spiritual water will never thirst but the water that I shall give him will become a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.**

Now we read passages in scripture and only see them in one way.

With this passage what is Jesus doing?

Jesus actually began simply sharing his own story with this woman. He starts telling her who he really is. He starts just sharing his story. That's what I'm saying. Jesus simply said, well, let me explain something to you who it is that you're talking with right now. Let me tell you who I am, and He shares his story about who He is.

Your story is the most powerful witnessing tool that you have noticed.

Notice she tried to get him off on to other subjects. First of all, she brings up race. She brings up race as a division where you're a Jew and I'm a Samaritan. Jesus didn't even answer that. He stuck with his story. Then she brings up reasoning. She says, well, you don't have anything to draw water with. Then if you read later on, she says, well, our father says you should worship this mountain. Then she brings up religion and she tries to divide.

When you tell your story don't let people get you off track. You know, they bring up all these things. They bring up our divisions, they bring up our differences but let me tell you what I do know.

I was trapped and now I'm free and I'm sharing with you how to get free. That's what I'm telling you. They did the same thing with the blind man in John 9 that was healed. They brought up all these religious arguments. Do you remember what he said? One thing I know is I was blind and now I see. That's what he's trying to tell the Pharisees, here's what I know and here's what you can't argue with.

And I do the same thing when I'm witnessing, I share my story and I tell people here's the way I was, and here's the way I am. You can't argue with that. That's what we've got to do. We've got to just simply share our story and let me show you something else Jesus did.

Jesus started talking to this woman that, and if we're going to witness, at some point, you're going to have to actually talk to people. And it's easy to talk to people.

I can teach you how to talk to people.

Let me tell you how. I know every person's favorite subject. It's themselves. If you don't believe that, I'll prove it to you. Who is the first person you look for in a group picture? And if you don't look good, the whole picture is bad, that's a bad picture.

That's the way we are. Here's what every person likes to talk about, his job, his holiday, his house, his car, his kids, his grandkids.

***Learn how to tell your story*** it's really simple. Every one of you has a story. You say, well, your story is better than mine. Listen to me very carefully. The sin part of my story is not the good part. The Jesus part is the good part, and you've got that part, so just learn to share your story.

That's what Jesus did. He simply shared his story with this woman.

Here is something else He did.

**Here's number two.** He moved in the miraculous. He shared his story and he moved in the miraculous. When you look at verse 16 **Jesus said to her, go call your husband and come here. The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said to her, you have well said I have no husband for, you've had five husbands and the one whom you now have is not your first husband, and that you spoke truly. She said, Oh, sir, I perceive you're a prophet.**

Okay. Let me, let me explain something to you about this that maybe you don't know. A word of knowledge is to know something about a person by means of the Spirit that you don't know in the natural.

In other words, Jesus had never met this woman in the natural. So he didn't know this but because he met her and talked with her and this is the first time he met her. He knew this by the Spirit.

You may say, well, yeah, Jesus could do that because he was Jesus.

Well, remember that Jesus laid down his divinity and became a human, and the things that he did, he did by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus moved on this earth because of an intimate relationship with the Father and a sensitive relationship with the Holy Spirit. Jesus did the ministry he did when he was on this earth as a human being through an intimate relationship with a Father and a sensitive relationship with the Holy Spirit.

And that's the way you're going to make it through this life. Luke 4:14 says, **then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit.** This is coming out of the wilderness. Before he even began his ministry, the Holy Spirit came on him just like the Holy Spirit needs to come on us. **Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit.**

Notice that it doesn't say in his own power. It doesn't say he came out of the wilderness in his own power. It says in the power of the Spirit. John 5:19 this is Jesus' own words, **Then Jesus answered and said to them, most assuredly I say to you, the Son can do nothing of himself but, what he sees the Father doing;** He doesn't say I can do anything. He says I can't, I can't do anything on my own. **I only do what the Father shows me to do.** And then Philippians 2:6-7 says: **though, he was God. He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges. He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.** Jesus ministered to this woman through his intimate relationship with the Father and his sensitive relationship to the spiritual.

That's how you can move in the miraculous when you're ministering to someone. So it wasn't that I raised him into the kingdom. It was that the Holy Spirit got his heart. So that's what Jesus did. He moved this woman through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**And here's the third thing.** She shared her story, and I'm talking about the Samaritan woman, that she shared her story.

But look at verse 25 **the woman said to him, I know that the Messiah is coming, who is called Christ. When he comes, he will tell us all things. Jesus said to her, I think this is so cool. I'm Him. I who speak to you am He. At this point, his disciples came and they marveled that he talked with a woman. The woman then left her waterpot, went on her way into the city and said to the men, come see a man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?** and they look at verse 39 **and many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, or told her story. He told me all the things I ever did.**

She just went and told her story. Now here's the amazing thing. She had not even been through Bible college. How in the world could you win someone to Jesus without theological training? Theological training is wonderful. It's excellent. It's great. Let me tell you how people win people to Jesus. People who've met Jesus introduce people to Him. All you have to do to introduce someone to someone you just have to know them. That's it, she met Jesus and she immediately says, come meet this guy, and that's exactly what we do when we witness. That's all we do.

And then they did the same thing. Look at verse 41 **And many more believed because of His own word. Once they met him, then they said to the woman, Now we believe not because of what you said, but we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed Christ, the Saviour of the world.**

This is how this thing just keeps going. Someone meets Jesus and they introduced someone to Him, that person meets Jesus, they introduce someone else.

Now I want you really take advantage of these next four weeks going into Christmas to share your story about Jesus and invite.

Let's look at verse 35 of this passage. **Jesus said, do you not say there are still four months and then comes the harvest. Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields for they are already white for harvest!**

I think that is a prophetic word for Saint Francis church. I don't think we need to say, well, the harvest is going to come when we refresh our building. No, the harvest is ripe right now. So please do everything you can. Remember that scripture we read last week? Luke 14:23 **then the master said the servant go out into the highways and lanes and compel them to come in. That my house may be filled.** That's our charge from the Spirit of God. That's our charge from Jesus.

I want you to go out and compel people to come in, find someone, neighbours, people you work with or someone you just met. This last week Donald and I were having a coffee, someone came and talked to us and Donald asked them to come. He invited him. It's that simple. If we'll just take the first step, Jesus will do the rest.

Here's why I'm saying that. The power to go out, comes from the time that we come in. The month of December is going to be a month that we are going to invite people here and some will be won for the Lord.

Here's the reason I'm telling you this. I want us to invite people, but the intimacy and the sensitivity that we need comes from spending time with Jesus. So I want to encourage you, make sure that you spend time with God every day.

And make sure that when you feel led to invite someone to come, that you follow through and you do what God tells you to do.