

## John 4:27-45 The Will of the Father Accomplished by the Son

Today's sermon is all about priorities. All of us have priorities. And some priorities have more importance than others. Your lawncare may be one of your priorities; you must spend time and effort and money on a regular basis. But, in comparison to providing for your family as a father the lawncare must wait until next week. And, as we will see with the Lord Jesus in our text today, there is nothing more important than doing, and accomplishing the will of God. I believe our story this morning is centered around v. 34. Jesus says, "**My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.**" So, my title: *The Will of the Father Accomplished by the Son*. With this in mind, I have two big truths from v. 34: 1) The Will of the Father, and 2) The Work of the Son. And then, I will finish with some applications.

1. The Will of the Father. In our story Jesus has just finished his conversation with this Samaritan woman. She is convinced that He is the Messiah, the Christ, and the savior of the world. This is evident; she leaves her water jar and (I imagine) runs back to the village to tell everyone who would hear. And they will believe as well (v. 42). In the meantime, the disciples return from town with much needed food. Now, we can assume with certainty Jesus was thirsty . . . and hungry. (I can get hungry just thinking about food. You can imagine days of travel, hot sun, no food or drink. It goes without saying that Jesus was hungry; in fact he NEEDED to eat and drink. To us, this would have been a joyous occasion – sometimes I just think of Jersey Mikes or East Coast Wings and I get excited.) Jesus needed this food! And I imagine his disciples were happy to bring it to him, saying, "*Jesus you need to eat.*"

But, instead of eating, what does Jesus do? He takes the opportunity to teach them (and us) about something WAY more important than physical food. As they urge him to eat (v. 31) he says to them, "***I have food to eat that you do not know about***" (v. 32). So, they think, "*Somebody else beat us to it . . . he's already eaten*" (v. 33). So, what is it he wants to teach them (and us)? He tells them his greatest priority, his greatest desire, his "food" is to do the WILL OF THE FATHER. So, what is the will of the Father? (which is the most important truth anyone could ever pursue).

As I begin to answer this question, let's step back and get to the very heart of this question before moving to the specifics. The foundation of our answer is this: God pursues his own glory! Everything He does, he does for the glory of his name! Creation screams "glory to God"! Nature declares "glory to God." The creation and sustaining of this universe as we know it proclaims: "glory to God." This is why, when Moses says, "***What is your name?***" God says, "***I AM***" is my name." "***I am God and there is no other.***" If there is anything you and I need today it is a fresh reminder of this truth! As Isaiah says in cp. 40:28: "**Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.**" And in 42:8: "**I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other . . .**" And in 48:11: "**For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to**

**another.**” (Apply – This world is not yours; it is God’s. Your life is not your own; it is given to you.)

Now, let’s come back to the TEXT and answer the question again: “*What is the will of the Father?*” We might say it another way, “*What will bring God the most glory?*” From this text, the answer to this question, “*What is the will of the Father,*” must be that God will SAVE a people from all over the earth, starting with these Samaritans. In v. 34 Jesus says, “**My food is to do the will of him who sent me . . .**” What is his will? Look in v. 35: “**Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.’**” What do you think was happening when Jesus said these words? The woman and many other Samaritans from the town are coming toward them. What a picture! To the Jews, these people were lower than pagans, “half” Jews, rebellious, idol worshippers, mixing marriages with the non-Jews. And their leader is a prostitute who was married 5 times and is now living with another man. (Notice Jesus doesn’t say “stone her” according to the law of Moses.) NO! He says, “*Look, here is the harvest!!*” Jesus is saying, “*For these people and for these kinds of people I have also come.*” In another place Jesus says, “***It is not the well who need a doctor; it is the sick***” (Matt. 9:12-13).

This woman knew she was “sick” . . . with sin. And she turned to Jesus and believed in Him as the Messiah. In vv. 28-29 we read: “**So the woman left her water jar and went away into the town and said to the people, 29 Come, see and man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ? They went out of the town and were coming to him.**” This year I planted butternut squash. I am starting to see them ripen; the harvest is close. It brings me great joy. In the same way, this world is the field. And it is FULL of those born as the offspring of Adam, sinners through and through, dead in their trespasses and sins, separated from God, heading to eternal damnation and punishment. We must lift up our eyes! Today is the day of salvation. Now is the kingdom of the Messiah. In vv. 36-38 Jesus says, “**Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.**” He is saying, “*Others have sown . . . prophets . . . John the Baptist . . . I am sowing now. See the harvest! Let’s sow and reap together!*” Now is the time! “***I AM the savior of the world***” (v. 43). “***I AM the bread of life!***” “***I am the water that gives life eternal.***” “***I AM the true temple of God.***” So, back to our question: “*What is the will of God, the ‘food’ that fills ALL Jesus’ desires?*” It is to be the SAVIOR OF THE WORLD. In this way, the sending of the Son brings God the greatest of glory! Creation can only do so much! The law can only do so much! Neither can save sinners! This is the work of the Son! This is why he came . . . To which we now turn our attention!

2. The Work of the Son. We have established that Jesus came to do the will of God, namely to be savior of the world. But, if I stop my sermon here, we will not get the full truth. Look again at v. 34: Jesus said to them, “**My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his**

**work.**” So far in the Book of John we have seen WHO Jesus is. He is the “Word.” He was in the beginning with God . . . through Him all things were created . . . In Him is LIFE and LIGHT . . . To those who “receive,” Him, those who “believe” on his name, he gives the right and the power to be children of God (1:1-13). He is the “fullness” of God, and from eternity the VERY God no one has seen (vv. 14-18). And so much more John will speak of Him! This is one of John’s purposes in writing; he wants the world to know WHO He is. He is the ONE who became flesh and dwelt among us (1:14).

But, John also wants his readers to know WHAT He has done. You see, the Son of God must not only come into this world, He must also ACCOMPLISH what He came to do. So, in v. 34 Jesus equates the “food,” the “will of God” with something he must accomplish. He cannot merely “come” into the world and say “*believe in me.*” What must he do? What is his food that he must eat? John the Baptist has already given us a clue. Do you remember what he said in 1:29? **“Behold the lamb of God . . . who takes away the sin of the world.”**

Jesus was saying to his disciples, “*See this woman who may as well be a prostitute . . . see these idolatrous half-breed Samaritans . . . I am going to do something that will seal the harvest, that will MAKE SURE the harvest comes in . . . I am going lay down my life as God’s sacrifice to save these people*” (we get this later). He is going to say throughout his ministry, **“Come to me all you who labor and have heavy burdens . . . I will give you rest”** (Matt. 11:28). Let me ask, “*How will this ‘rest’ the ‘peace’ that will flood their souls come down to the Samaritans . . . to this woman . . . to Nicodemus . . . to you and me?*” It will come down to us because Jesus “ate” the food he was supposed to eat . . . This was the will of God! So, what was this food?

Do you remember the words of Isaiah: In 53:4-12: **“4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. 8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? 9 And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. 10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. 11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured**

**out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors” (Is. 53:4-12)**

I like good food! I don't want to get sick because of eating bad food. But what did Jesus eat? He ate food that brought the greatest of condemnation, greatest of shame, the greatest of guilt, the greatest of the wrath of Hell . . . and all from his good, loving Father. And in this “meal” He delighted . . . And this is the ONLY way to reap the harvest! . . . WE are the accomplishment. WE are the gifts the Father has given to the Son. WE are the apple of his eye! No wonder the whole village came out to him! By faith, they believed his words and later would benefit along with us! This is the cross! This is the work of the Son.

But, that's not all. He must conquer death . . . which is exactly what He did as he rose from the dead 3 days later. And then, he ascended to the right hand of the Father where He now sits as exalted “lamb” who is the KING. Heb. 1:3: **“After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high . . .”** Phil. 2:9-11 **“Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”** This means that for us now, we wait as He has given the Holy Spirit, and as He is building his church in this world. And that's not all. Col. 1:19-20: **“For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.”** THIS is the Will of God! THIS is what the Son has and will accomplish because he ate the “food,” He accomplished the will of the Father. This is why we pray. This is why we sing. This is why we gather. This is why we tell the peoples of the earth about Him. This is why we “labor” and “toil” as Christians to make disciples in this world!

As we think about application, how do we/you look to the harvest today? What is your harvest? Let's think about some different roles in our church. For the stay-at-home mother that rarely gets out and spends most of her time at home with her children. I would say “for now” your children are your harvest. For the great grandmother you can pray, can encourage others, etc. For all of us and particularly those who work jobs outside the home, I think of Col. 4:2-6: **“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”** For those in high school and college, associate with other Christians who will keep you accountable. For others who may stay at home most of the time, invite your neighbors to church (“come and see”). Anyone, make the time to come out on our prayer walks and pray for people, as we look for opportunities to bring in the harvest. For the pastor or the one who sits in front of the computer all day, frequent a coffee shop to get to know people. (I did this a couple weeks ago at the Research Campus and God gave me a man with whom to speak.)

Application: Do not fear men! Instead fear God! This is the example of the woman. She didn't care that everyone knew her sins. Her repentance was for all to see? Why? She feared God more than feared man. So must it be with us! When people are big and God is small we do the opposite of this woman! This means we do not fear to evangelize. This means we aren't afraid to confess our sins to one another. This means there is no hiding our "private" life from our "public" life with the people of God in the church. This is a true picture of repentance!

At the end of the day, the Bible speaks of many ways in which we display the glory of God. You display his glory in your godliness, being different from the world, not bowing down to the idols around you. This affects every area of our lives. You bring glory to God by gathering with God's people in the church and ordering ourselves according to the commands of Christ in the NT. You bring glory to God by loving the church. You bring glory to God as you meet with other Christians in discipleship. But, this text teaches us that we must not leave the butternut squash in the garden. We must be a witness to this world. This means we must engage them! If we do not, we will eventually cease to be a church. Brothers and sisters, look to the harvest . . . we have the Words of Eternal Life! And in this regard, should our desire be anything less than the Lord Jesus as we sow and reap the harvest.

As Christians, those who follow our Lord Jesus, we are reaping what he has sown. He accomplished the will of God and gave us his message.