

Jn. 4:31-38 “Food You Don’t Know About”

For the Children: When you are doing something you really enjoy, food may be temporarily forgotten. When I go fishing, I often don’t bother with lunch. Sometimes there is a serious problem with young people not eating while they are playing computer games. But the Lord Jesus put aside eating for something very important: telling the Samaritans the Gospel. That was part of His Father’s will, and His Son wanted to obey it and finish all His Father sent Him to do. That was His greatest joy and His top priority. Doing God’s will should also be our top priority. **Questions:** What was Jesus’ “food”? What is most important to you in your life? How important is telling others about the Lord Jesus?

Introduction:

First Point: The Christ’s Spiritual Food

- 1) **The Christ Teaches Samaritans About Himself:** The Lord was thirsty and hungry when He came to the Samaritan city of Sychar. But He used His need for water as an opportunity to tell the woman at the well about the living water He could provide. She then told the men of the city that this could be the Christ. They began moving towards Him just as the disciples arrived back with food
- 2) **His Refusal to Eat:** The Lord refuses the disciples repeated offer of food, because He has spiritual food to sustain Him – food they do not know about. Their ignorance is made clear by their literal interpretation of His words
- 3) **The Will of the Sender:** That spiritual food is to do the will of His Father Who sent Him to complete His Messianic task. Part of that task is calling sinners to Himself, such as the Samaritans. The Father’s will must be obeyed perfectly and the work completely accomplished for it to succeed. On its completion, see Jn. 17:4, 19:28, 30. There is an urgency in it and a priority higher than eating. This work is also a source of satisfaction and joy for Jesus – His “food”

Second Point: Our Spiritual Task

- 1) **A Lesser Task:** Our spiritual food is not identical to that of the Lord Jesus – we have no Messianic task to carry out. But doing God’s will should be our food, based on Christ having made it His
- 2) **But an Urgent Task:** That task, connected to the Messianic mission of Christ, is to “harvest” souls that respond to the Gospel. With a literal harvest, men may have to wait 4 months – though v. 35 could be a saying that means “no need to hurry.” Jesus points out that with the spiritual harvest there is more urgency, and sowing and reaping can occur close together. He says this even as the Samaritans are coming towards them
- 3) **Unity in Joy:** To further stress the urgency, Jesus says the “reapers” are already gathering their soul-harvest and receiving their “wages” – their gracious reward from God. He adds that while it may be true in the literal sense that one man sows and another gets the benefit, in the spiritual realm both sower and reaper are doing God’s will in unity. They share in each other’s work and in the joy of the results of the Gospel. See 1 Cor. 3:5-9. This is what the Lord has commissioned His disciples for (Jn. 17:18, Mt. 28:19-20)
- 4) **Our Spiritual Food:** Our spiritual food is therefore not only the spiritual life and growth that comes from Christ, resulting in eternal salvation; it should also be to do His will in all matters, including carrying out the commission to disciple the nations. This should be a matter of joy and satisfaction to us

Conclusion: