

“True Nourishment”
John 4:27-34
(Preached at Trinity, May 16, 2018)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As we've seen, much of Chapter 4 deals with Jesus interacting with the Samaritan woman. She was a sinful Samaritan woman who had been ordained to eternal life. Jesus arrived at Jacob's well at precisely the right moment to intercept the adulterous Samaritan sinner.
2. The Samaritan woman was surprised to find a Jewish man sitting by the well and even more surprised when He asked her for a drink and engaged her in conversation. Jesus began speaking of things she did not understand but by the time He was finished she was convinced that He was the Messiah.
Jesus gives her His grand affirmation:
John 4:26 NAU - "I who speak to you am *He*."
3. **Verse 27** tells us it was at that moment Jesus' disciples arrived from Sychar where they had gone to obtain supplies. We're given several points of information.
 - A. John shares the amazement of the Apostles at finding Jesus talking with a woman. (He would have been one of them)
 1. This is something first century Rabbi's did not do. There was as strict rabbinical rule: "Let no one talk with a woman in the street, no not with his own wife."
 2. They had a high respect of the authority of Christ and held Him in reverence. If He was speaking with a woman it had to be approved.
John 4:27 NAU - "yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why do You speak with her?"
 - B. We are not told if the Apostles heard Jesus's words, "I am He" but there is a strong presumption they had.
 - C. John tells us that it was at this point the woman departed. Upon having her faith confirmed she did what all of our Lord's disciples do. She ran to tell others.
John 4:29-30 NAU - "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I *have* done; this is not the Christ, is it?" ³⁰ They went out of the city, and were coming to Him."
4. Jesus is now alone with His disciples and begins to engage them in dialogue. Having traveled for a distance without having eaten anything they press upon Him to eat.
John 4:31 NAU - "Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat."
 - A. It was a genuine concern for His physical wellbeing. This occurred frequently. Jesus was so consumed with His earthy ministry and mission that He often neglected meals and sleep.

- B. Jesus takes this opportunity to teach them regarding His priorities. He describes it as His true nourishment. As with Nicodemus and again with the Samaritan woman, Jesus used the physical world to teach theological truths.
John 4:32 NAU - "I have food to eat that you do not know about."
- C. And like Nicodemus who thought of a literal birth and the Samaritan woman who thought of literal water, the disciples thought Jesus was speaking of literal food.
John 4:33 NAU - "So the disciples were saying to one another, "No one brought Him *anything* to eat, did he?"
- D. Jesus says, "I have food" and the disciples wonder where Jesus got the food; they begin inquiring of one another.
- E. We might note that the Apostles had already witnessed the supernatural power of Christ. They had witnessed Him turn water into wine. But they never considered that Jesus would use His power for His own selfish needs.
5. Jesus described a life with an appetite for God.
John 4:34 NAU - "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work."
There are two things I want us to see here
1. The importance of doing.
 2. The importance of finishing
- I. The importance of "doing"
- A. Jesus has His eye upon the "will" of God. There are two elements of God's will
1. There is God's sovereign will.
 - a. God's sovereign will is the essence of God's Divine decree wherein He determines whatsoever comes to pass.
Children's Catechism:
Q: Can God do all things?
A: Yes, God can do all His holy will
Isaiah 46:9-10 NAU - "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; *I am* God, and there is no one like Me, ¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'"
Isaiah 55:8-11 NAU - "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. ⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; ¹¹ So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it."

Daniel 4:35 NAU - "All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"

- b. All of creation *WILL* accomplish God's sovereign will. No one can stop God from doing what He has determined to do.
 - c. As God's people we love His will. Jesus delighted for God to do His will. **Luke 22:42** - "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."
2. Jesus also delighted in God's revealed will – that which God has revealed and commanded. This is the essence of obedience
 - a. Jesus' great desire was to do what His Father had commanded. **John 4:34 NAU** - "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me"
 - b. Jesus came at the command of the Father
We refer to His active obedience and His passive obedience
 - By His passive obedience we are referring to his laying down His life accomplishing our redemption.
 - By His active obedience we refer to His obedience to the Law.
 3. God's will in sending His Son is that He would save His people from their sins.
 - a. This is why Jesus had come to the well. He had an appointment with the Samaritan woman.
Luke 19:10 NAU - "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."
 - b. It was the passion of the Son to complete this work.
 - c. Isaiah foretold it:
Isaiah 50:5-7 NAU - "The Lord GOD has opened My ear; And I was not disobedient Nor did I turn back. ⁶ I gave My back to those who strike *Me*, And My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting. ⁷ For the Lord GOD helps Me, Therefore, I am not disgraced; Therefore, I have set My face like flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed."
- B. Jesus is saying that He had a particular appetite
1. The human life is made up of appetites. In our natural state we are consumed with earthly appetites. We have appetites for food, for pleasure, for personal fulfillment, recognition, power, wealth.
For the lost man, his appetites and desires are limited to these earthly desires
Philippians 3:18-19 NAU - "For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* enemies of the cross of Christ, ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is *their* appetite, and *whose* glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things."

2. Jesus is saying that His greatest appetite was doing the Father's will. This doesn't mean He didn't possess these other appetites.
 - a. He understood hunger.
Matthew 4:1-2 NAU - "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry."
 - b. He understood thirst
John 19:28 NAU - "After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, "I am thirsty."
 - c. His appetite for obedience to the Father transcended all else.
- C. How we need to hear this
 1. It is easy for us to focus upon earthly appetites losing sight of our purpose. Holiness loses its significance.
 2. We find it easy to compromise. Our lust for pleasure makes it easy for us to disregard the Sabbath
 3. Jesus commands us to make His Kingdom our chief priority, but our other appetites often crowd it out.
 4. We must give ourselves to those things that promote spiritual appetites
But notice Jesus is NOT saying His food was to *know* the will of God or to *will* the will of God but to *do* the will of God.
Matthew 7:24-25 NAU - "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock."

II. The importance of "finishing" - "to accomplish His work"

- A. Jesus understood His life in terms of Divine purpose
 1. He had a mission to complete. Everything in His life was focused upon a particular conclusion – Jesus had His sights fixed upon the cross. Only when the atonement was complete could He declare, "It is finished!"
Philippians 2:8 NAU - "Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."
 2. The word for "accomplish" is τελειόω – It means to reach a goal or bring to an end. It is similar to the verb τελέω which means to complete or fulfill. The CSV, KJV, NIV translate it "finish."
 3. Jesus was not satisfied until He had completed all that God had purposed for His life. When He was twelve-year old He told His mother, "Don't you know I must be about My Father's business?"
 4. He uses the word again in **Chapter 17**
John 17:4 NAU - "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do."
 5. Paul felt this burden in his own life.
2 Timothy 4:7 NAU - "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;"

6. God has not purposed that we live without direction. We are saved unto holiness. We are saved to reflect the glories of Christ. We are saved to increase in our love for Christ and for one another. We are saved to be God's vessels in the promulgation of the Gospel.
- B. Such a life demands maintaining an eternal perspective. It demands keeping Christ as our greatest treasure.
1. If we live as if the things of this world are the greatest priority we will prioritize our life accordingly
We will store up earthly things.
We will set our heart on earthly things
We will worry about earthly things
 2. As Christians we must maintain Kingdom priority
Philippians 3:20 NAU - "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;"
 - a. This is our priority
"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God" - Kingdom concerns
 - b. We are living for another world
Evangelism has a high priority – It was the last command of Christ before He departed for heaven.
We must focus on matters concerning our soul
Our relationship with Christ is far more important than food or clothing
 3. We must deny the flesh that hinders our spiritual growth and pursue those things that promote it.
1 Peter 2:11 NAU - "Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul."
1 Timothy 4:7-8 NAU - "But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; ⁸ for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and *also* for the *life* to come."

Conclusion:

1. The lost man sets his mind on fleshly things – he is captivated by this world. In contrast, the believer sets his mind on spiritual things. His passion is the Kingdom of God.
2. May God grant us to find our greatest satisfaction in Christ – “My nourishment is Christ, the Bread of life.”