

Woman at the Well

Introduction

John 4:1–4 (ESV) 1 Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John 2 (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), 3 he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. 4 And he had to pass through Samaria.

This event immediately follows the interaction that Jesus had with Nicodemus. He has just taught John 3:16 and now He is going to take His disciples to the laboratory that is life. He is going to show how God loves the whole world. It is most likely Late December...

John the Baptist has just been arrested. Jesus has been in Jerusalem for a feast. It is now time for Him to move toward Galilee. Not to His hometown of Nazareth, but rather to His ministry base in Capernium by the Sea of Galilee. This was not some random act, every move that Jesus made had intention and purpose. There was someone who Jesus loved and He wanted to make sure that she knew that. She was a sinful woman and was running from God...but she was about to run right into Him.

Jesus knew that because of His rising prominence and popularity, there would soon be a confrontation with the religious establishment (among whom were the Pharisees). They had arrested John and Jesus' disciples were baptizing even more than him. Yet, Jesus knew that the time was not yet right for a confrontation in Jerusalem, so He returned to Galilee.

Jesus was, as always, right on Schedule. He had to go to Samaria. Every place He goes, every miracle He performs, was done in obedience to the Father. He had traveled a very long way to get to her. Jesus loved the Father and He loved the world. He so loved the world that He wanted this woman to not perish but have eternal life.

John 14:31 (ESV) 31 but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.

There were three routes MAP He could have taken. He could have gone along the coast. There was a route there, and it is still there today, by the way. He could have gone through Peraea, which is up at the other side of Jordan. Or He could go through Samaria. Jesus said that He had to go through Samaria....why? He had a clandestine meeting with a particular woman at High Noon.

Jews did not go through Samaria...they just didn't. It was the shortest route but they avoided it like the plague. Jews hated....hated...hated..The Samaritans.

Think how incredible that truth is....a woman...we will discover was considered a nobody...was important to God and God rearranged the world to connect her to Jesus. And if you are a follower of Jesus, He did the same thing for you. Every believer has been the woman at the well.

He must go through Samaria because it is the Father's will for Him to go through Samaria. His destination, apparently, was Cana of Galilee where He had made the water into wine. There was a

certain nobleman whose son was sick, and He is headed in that direction. But He must go through Samaria.

Lets pause here for a moment so that we can understand what is really happening here. Jesus always did what the Father commanded through His sovereign will. But that was not unique to Jesus. Every event that has ever happened in human history has been orchestrated, ordained, and accomplished by God. That means everything you have ever done. Everything that you have ever experienced. God is sovereign over your life. The only difference was that Jesus showed us how to be 100% obedient to His will and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

So, as you work your way through John, Remember that just as Jesus was moving from moment to moment, person to person, ...and so are you. God has people that He desires that you encounter. It is only after our obedience to God to do His will that we are in the right place at the right time to see the miraculous moves of God.

Jesus was always in that place. Never too early...never too late....perfectly in the will of the Father's timing and purpose. And once Jesus was in the perfect moment, He always turned to Spiritual matters. We could learn a great deal from Him.

That moment is the key moment that we must understand if we are to catch the racism between the Jews and Samaritans. Following Solomon's reign, the nation of Israel divided. Ten of Jacob's tribes went North and Two stayed South.

The Northern Nation was called Israel and the Southern was called Judea. Jerusalem was in Judea in the South. As soon as they split, the Northern Ten Tribes would not longer go to Jerusalem for the feasts. So they set up their own temple in Samaria at Mt Gerazim. Just above Jacob's Well.

As if that was not bad enough, once the northern kingdom was conquered by Assyria, they intermarried with people of all religions, faiths and beliefs. They were not only traitors to the word of God but now that had polluted the Jewish line and we half-breeds.

To the Jews the Samaritans were the lowest of low. They knew the God of Abraham and they walked away. The Jews showed their piety and self righteousness by the level of public hate they had for the Samaritans. The Samaritans saw them as arrogant and legalistic. Jesus saw both of them as spiritually lost sinners who needed Living water.

John 4:3–6 (ESV) 5 So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

John gives us some other details here as well. The location is important...every detail in the Bible is important. This was the land of Jacob. A place that contained his well. A source of water...life...in the midst of deserts. Jacob's well has supported all who come since the day He dug it.

Jacob was the father of the 12 Tribe leaders of Israel. In fact, his name was changed to Israel. He provided water in the desert physically and now Jesus is here to provide spiritual water for those who thirst for more.

At the fork of the old Roman road south of Sychar He meets the woman at the well. Mount Gerizim is to the northwest, and the synagogue of the Samaritans is on the slope of Mount Gerizim. Jesus is not only in Samaria, but he is right next to the false temple that they have established.

Location....This well was famous. It was now in the Capital of Samaria a city named Sychar or Shechem.

This is where Abram first came when he arrived into Canaan from Babylonia. (Genesis 12:6) • This is where God first appeared to Abram in Canaan, and renewed the promise of giving the land to him and his descendants. (Genesis 12:7) • This is where Abram built an altar and called upon the name of the Lord (Genesis 12:8) • This is where Jacob came safely when he returned with his wives and children from his sojourn with Laban. (Genesis 33:18) • This is where Jacob bought a piece of land from a Canaanite named Hamor, for 100 pieces of silver (Genesis 33:19)

This is where Jacob built an altar to the Lord, and called it El Elohe Israel (Genesis 33:20) This established the connection between Jacob and what became known as Jacob’s well there in Sychar. • Sychar (Shechem) was also the place where Dinah, the daughter of Jacob, was raped—and the sons of Jacob massacred the men of the city in retaliation. (Genesis 34) • This is where the bones of Joseph were eventually buried when they were carried up from Egypt (Joshua 24:32)

This is where Joshua made a covenant with Israel, renewing their commitment to the God of Israel and proclaiming, as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. (Joshua 24)

The sixth hour is noon. It is during the heat of the day. He was weary with His journey. How perfectly human He was. He is fully man and fully God. You see His journey to this woman did not start when He left Judea...His trip to this woman started when He left His throne....

Think of it! The God of eternity came down to this earth. The Word was made flesh and dwelled among us—He pitched His tent here among us. He went through Samaria and sat down at a well in order that He might reach this woman.

But she comes at noon. In the heat of the day. Everyone else came in the cool of the morning. It was a big social event for the women. They would come to the well each morning and socialize as they got water for the day. It was a fun social event...but not for this woman. She had to come at Noon. It says a great deal about her reputation.

John 4:7–9 (ESV) 7 A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” 8 (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is

it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

So right on time, here comes this woman. She is not seeking Jesus. She is a direct contrast to Nicodemus. Nicodemus came seeking to encounter Jesus...This woman is just going about her day....oblivious to the fact that a moment ordained by God was just a moment away.

By tradition, a rabbi would not speak with a woman in public, not even with his own wife. It was also very unusual for a Jewish person of that time to ask a favor or accept a drink from a Samaritan's cup. Jesus' request genuinely surprised the woman

She is on edge. Her encounter with Jesus brings an edge to the conversation. She is condescending, sarcastic, and clearly biased against Jews. Jesus doesn't care. She comes as she is....and he meets her where she is.

Think about the contrast she is to Nicodemus and notice how differently Jesus deals with her. With Nicodemus, a man who was religious to his fingertips, Jesus was harsh and blunt, but see how gentle He is with this woman. He asks a favor of her. He appeals to her sympathy—He is thirsty and asks for a drink

It is noon and His disciples have gone to the city to buy food. The fact that they were buying the Samaritans' food also reveals Jesus' total rejection of the Jewish prejudice which considered Samaritan food unclean, even as swine's flesh.

John 4:9–10 (ESV) 10 Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”

You see what our Lord is doing here. He is coming to the very lowest place to which He can come. But watch how the Lord deals with her. He is very skillful and sympathetic, but He also talks with her forcefully, faithfully, and factually. He doesn't give her a lecture on integration or civil rights

Instead, He appeals to her curiosity, her attitude immediately changes.

Jesus drew the woman into conversation, making her curious about several things: • He made her curious about the things of God (If you knew the gift of God) • He made her curious about who Jesus is (who it is who says to you) • He made her curious about what He could give her (He would have given you living water).

John 4:11–12 (ESV) 11 The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.”

Twice she refuses His request. She's rude here, and insolent, impudent, and impertinent—she tosses her pert and saucy head. She makes this racial distinction. It is said that the Samaritans would sell to the Jews, but they wouldn't drink from the same vessel with them

The whole point here is that this woman is thinking in terms of the physical; her thinking could get no higher than the water level down in the well. Notice that she identifies herself with Jacob. She is name dropping....She wants to remind this Jewish man that they are descendants of Jacob

too. In fact, they have his well. She is hitting Jesus with all of the rants that the Samaritans had about the Jews. Jesus doesn't engage this tangent. Rather He tries to engage her curiosity. He wasn't there to argue with her...He was there to save her.

Are you greater than Jacob? It is hard to tell if the woman asked a sincere question, or if she was a cynical critic. All depended on the tone of her voice—

John 4:12–15 (ESV) 13 Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” 15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

She only knows what she knows. Physical water quenches thirst but only for a while. Jesus takes the physical that she can understand, and invites her to begin to understand the Spiritual. He does this with everyone He saves. We come with physical needs and He shows us our very real and much greater Spiritual need.

It's common for people to try and satisfy their God-created inner thirst for many things, or any thing except for what Jesus gives. People are thirsty—they want, they long, they search, they reach; but only what Jesus gives satisfies to the deepest levels of man's soul and spirit.

Nothing has really changed today. People are going to all kinds of wells trying to satisfy a need. They may go to the well of pride, wealth, status, drugs, sex, or the applause of others. It works for a moment or two but then they are thirst again. It is like a drug. Yet that is where Jesus meets us. Next to the well that has enticed us to settle for physical desires rather than spiritual need.

She just wants to avoid the shame of coming to the well in the middle of the day. She is focused on the physical but enticed to consider what Jesus is talking about. If Jesus could relieve her immediate need, maybe she would engage him further. We all do this right? God fix this, give me that, stop this, arrange this...and then we will follow you.

The problem is that this lady does not yet understand what is causing her thirst. Her spiritual thirst is caused by her sins. She has been separated from God because of her sins and that has dried her up spiritually.

Jesus does this with all of us. We want the Spiritual fix...the living water...without having to deal with the the Spiritual Disease that drives our thirst. Our sins. Jesus always lovingly and yet truthfully forces us to address the sin issue in our lives before He can truly transform us spiritually.

So Jesus moves her to that reality.

John 4:16–18 (ESV) 16 Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” 17 The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; 18

for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."

This is the master stroke. Although the water is available for all, there is a condition to be met — there must be a thirst, a need. She must, therefore, recognize that she is a sinner. So our Lord says to her, "Go call your husband." That is a touchy subject. She becomes flippant again...I have no husband.

She was accurate about that. She had had five husbands, but she didn't have one then. She was living with a man in adultery. Jesus insists that, when you come to Him, you must deal with sin. All secrets must come out before Him. Before you can be saved from your sins, you must first agree the God about all of them. This woman was a sinner. One of the reasons she was not so popular with the women of the town was because she was too popular with the men of the town.

It is only when confronted with the sins that she thought were hidden that she finally understands the topic is now Spiritual.

John 4:19 (ESV) 19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.

I think this is hilarious. Probably one of the greatest understatements in the Bible and clearly aligns her with Captain obvious. Jesus confronts her with truth...in love...without the condemnation that most Jews would have for this Samaritan adulterer. He simply states the truth and it cuts her to the core...I perceive that you are a prophet. You are speaking of spiritual water...this is too personal...too intense...so she tries to change the subject.

Time to avoid the Spiritual truth by arguing about spiritual stuff. We do this in churches all the time. We don't want to address the sin in our lives or within our church, so we change the subject and argue about religious stuff and our preferences.

John 4:20 (ESV) 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship."

Mayday..Mayday..we are going down....quick change the subject.

Now that will make a good religious argument, Where are you going to worship? In this mountain or in Jerusalem? That is still religious but not too personal. Talk about sins all that you want...just don't talk about MY sin. it's easy to preach about the sin of the Moabites which they committed about 4,000 years ago, but what about our sins today?

We would much rather talk about where we should go to church than the fact that we have not really confessed our sins to the Almighty. There are many people today who want to argue religion, but they don't want to live the relationship that brings salvation.

Jesus does not offer this living water to those who will not agree with Him about their sins.

The disease must be addressed before the cure is given. Jesus meets all of us in our sins....and He always invites us to agree with Him and move to spiritual cures.

John 4:20–24 (ESV) 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

Notice that Jesus says Salvation is from the Jews. The term Jew is used to identify with the descendants of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Jews are made up of those from the Tribe of Judah, the Tribe of Benjamin and some of the Levites. Since we don't know who was in the ten lost tribes, every Jewish person that we can identify today came from the Southern tribes.

And Jesus says....Salvation is from the Jews. He tells her that she is wrong. The Samaritans have turned from the truth. You worship what you do not know. The Jesus says we...He is including Himself as a Southern Jew...worship what we know...and salvation comes through us.

The thing that was important to this woman was whether she should worship God in this mountain where the Samaritans worship Him, or should she worship Him in Jerusalem. Jesus told her the day was coming when He would not be worshiped in either place. Why? Well Jerusalem and the temple are only about 70 years or so from not existing.

The Samaritans believed that Moses commissioned an altar on Mount Gerazim, the mountain of blessing—this was their justification of their system of worship on that mountain. But like all faith that tries to combine elements of different religions, they worship what they do not know

They came to the Temple to worship God because that is where God was. His presence was in the Holy of Holies. But now that Jesus is here...He will tear down that curtain and we will receive the Spirit and change worship forever. From now on those who worship Him will do so in Spirit and note this...In truth.

It is irrelevant, therefore, where you worship God. It is not where but how you worship Him that is important. Our Lord answered her very adequately. God is a Spirit. You don't have to run to this place or that place. True worshipers worship Him in spirit and in truth.

To worship in spirit means you are concerned with spiritual realities, not so much with places or outward sacrifices, cleansings, and trappings.

To worship in truth means you worship according to the whole counsel of God's word, especially in light of the New Testament revelation.

Jesus is establishing a Spiritual kingdom...where true worship comes from the Spirit in your heart. God is Spirit and Jesus is inviting us to become spiritual beings as well. Just as He told Nicodemus you must be born again...He is inviting this woman to the same place.

John 4:25–26 (ESV) 25 The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." 26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he." Just then his

disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?"

She knows of the promised one. And Jesus clearly and without subtlety tells her that He is the Messiah. He is telling her all things.

The Disciples returned just in time to hear Jesus' declaration of Messiah. God orchestrating the timing again. The disciples are going to learn over time that they too must learn to love even the Samaritans because God so loved the world.

John 4:27–30 (ESV) 28 So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" 30 They went out of the town and were coming to him.

Water is now totally unimportant to her. She leaves the water jug and ran to town. Have you noticed that once you encounter and surrender to Jesus that you no longer need the very thing that you thought was most important.

He told me all that I ever did. He revealed the sins that I thought were just between me and God. So He must be God.

The woman had turned in faith to the Lord Jesus, so now she rushes into the city to tell others. Notice that she doesn't talk to the women because she's not on speaking terms with them. Some of those men were involved with her, and they are very much interested in knowing whether He could tell all things that she had done. So here is what happened.

The men came because of her witness. That is very important for us to see. The fact that she witnessed to others is evidence of her faith. This is the classic "Come and see. Decide for yourself moment"

The woman was amazed not only that Jesus knew the facts of her life, but that He loved her even knowing the facts of her life. We sometimes fear that if someone knew all that I ever did, they could not love us—but Jesus loved this woman.

John 4:31–34 (ESV) 31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." 32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." 33 So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?" 34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.

Now Jesus needs to move His disciples to this spiritual place. He has the same discussion with them. The physical need of hunger is met by the Spiritual food of doing God's will. Those in the will of God will never thirst or hunger Spiritually again...

John 6:35 (ESV) 35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

John 4:35–38 (ESV) 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. 36 Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. 37

For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' 38 I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Remember that this took place in December, and harvest in that area would be in April.

Jesus is thinking about the span of time between planting and harvest when the grain is growing but not mature, when the fields are full but not ready for cutting. The farmer relaxes and enjoys the promise of plenty. But Jesus abruptly changes the image. The fields are now ready for gathering! He has planted the seed (at the well) and now the harvest (of Samaritans) is coming in. Jesus is in the world, God has invaded the field with seed, and it is bearing fruit already.

In farming (as in so many other labors) significant labor precedes harvest. Sometimes those who do the preparatory work are not the same as those who harvest. But what does Jesus mean by "others [who] have done the hard work"? This is possibly John the Baptist or Jesus himself, who has prepared the way for the coming church

Either way it is an important theological statement since it defines Christian mission in terms of what has gone on before, what God has been doing in advance of our efforts. Christian labor is never a solitary effort, divorced from the labor of God. Christians are called to go where God has already "done the hard work" and in this place reap the harvest.

John 4:39–42 (ESV) 39 Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of his word. 42 They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."

What a wonderful thing we see here. They came to the Living Water and they drank. The only condition was for them to thirst. You will never know that you thirst until you know that you are a sinner

the Samaritans reenter the scene and the harvest is at hand. Their faith (they "believed in him") is based on the woman's testimony, which underscores the value of human witness to the work of God. Evangelism is a cooperative effort, in which the preparatory work of God joins with our witness to what he has done and is doing in the world

Their stay there brought even more successes since many more came to faith. Did their faith grow and expand? Well, we see these same people several years later....Right after Steven was martyred, Philip came to them..

Acts 8:4–6 (ESV) 4 Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. 5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. 6 And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did.

The Samaritans eagerly receive Philip, confess their faith, are baptized, and receive the Holy Spirit.

One woman's faith...impacting and growing years later....that is the lesson for us.

Closing

So where are you in this story? Everytime I look at the Bible I see a flawed reflection of me. Not a critical review but an optimistic loving opportunity to strive to surrender more.

Town people

Thirsty but Waiting for others to bring them water

Perhaps hearing about the Messiah just out of town but considering it the rantings of a sinful woman.

Perhaps concerned that this man knew too much about what this woman had done. Afraid of having their sins revealed.

Maybe following this woman to meet this Messiah man to see what He could do for them.

Discovering on the way that the man they were going to see was Jewish....and maybe hoping to teach Him what happens when they come through Samaria.

Perhaps refusing to go see Jesus at the well, but unable to avoid Him when He came to them....their houses...their city...

Or maybe hearing and being willing to see for yourself and follow the crowds to see for themselves.

Perhaps realizing the depths of their thirst...the need for cleansing with living water and realizing that this woman's Messiah was now their Savior.

The Other Women in Town

Perhaps furious that this woman...this woman...was leading the men once again and they were listening to her.

Drinking their Haterade and growing in their prejudice and jealousy. Envious that Jesus had chosen her for this encounter and not them. Secretly hoping that she will make a fool of herself

More furious when they discover this attention gathering charade is going to last for days.

But some...aware of the promises in the Scriptures...knowing the Messiah will one day come and willing to decide for themselves rather than sinking into their peer group.

Others hearing the woman...thinking it is madness...but something deep inside telling them that it is true. Moving past their doubts to encounter the supernatural.

The Religious Leaders in town.

The Samaritan temple was on that mountain. Their place of worship. They were the leaders of the religious opinions about Jews.

Blinded by hatred and racism they see their town pursuing a Messiah....a JEWISH Messiah. Perhaps Jealous that Jesus had not come to them first. They were after all the religious leaders of Samaria.

Woman at the Well

Also dealing with her racism and hatred of the Jews. A woman of her reputation, her known past, encountering and speaking to a Jewish rabbi- perhaps the Messiah.

Forced to confront the reality of her sinful life, but for the first time confronted in love and mercy rather than condemnation and shame. Invited into a relationship that she is not sure she belongs in and certainly isn't worthy enough .

Meeting for the first time someone who know all that she had ever done....and yet still loved her. Still offered her a new way.

Realizing that as she ran to town she had left the water jugs behind....because she was no longer thirsty. Knowing that she had been quenched in living water.

Disciples

Dealing with their racism and hatred of the Samaritans. Wondering why Jesus loves "those kind of people" Maybe offended in their racism. Wrestling with a new reality of addressing their biases.

Perhaps beginning to realize that Jesus really does love everyone. Even Samaritans.

Confused once again trying to see the Spiritual in the physical. Trying to understand why Jesus treated this woman so differently than Nicodemus.

Maybe offended that Jesus wasn't supposed to be just for the Jews. Trying to keep the Messiah for themselves. Perhaps they thought they could form their own click and have Jesus all for themselves.

For the first time seeing that Jesus saves people and we just lead them home. No debate or argument was needed. No detailed explanation of Scriptures. Just come and see for yourself and stand back and watch what happens when Jesus encounters people.

Wondering what it really means to gather the Harvest of Jesus and lead others to Him. Trying to understand what Jesus really meant when He said come follow me.

Realizing that they clearly heard Jesus say He was the promised Messiah.

Or maybe you are in this story today. Coming to church...tons of things to do and think about outside these walls. Just going about your daily tasks...and then you encounter Jesus. Perhaps He is prompting you to agree with Him about your sins and to thirst for living water.

Maybe you have realized this morning that God has been trying to lead you to well after well in order to show people how to get living water and you have not placed yourself where He has directed you to go.

Maybe convicted that the sin you need to address is that you have been letting others bring in Jesus' harvest.