

Study Guide for March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Unexpected Harvest. John 4:27-42.

Introduction: Describe a time you received something for which you did not work. In retrospect, who did the work from which you received the benefit? How did you feel?

I. People and Perplexities: (John 4:27-30)

- A. Where did the disciples return from? What do you think they encountered in town?
- B. Why are the disciples surprised? What does there this reveal about their attitude?
- C. Where does the woman go? What do you think she encountered in town?
- D. What did the woman say that generated such interest?
- E. What tends to generate positive interest in Jesus today?

II. Priorities in the Kingdom: (John 4:31-34)

- A. What do the disciples want Jesus to do? What does this reveal about their focus?
- B. Jesus replies, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about?" What is this food?
- C. How does this statement by Jesus (vs. 32) compliment Matt. 4:1-4 & Rom. 14:17?
- D. How do the disciples understand Jesus' response (vs. 33)?
- E. Reflect on the response of Jesus (vs. 34). Rewrite it applying it personally.  
"My will is to do \_\_\_\_\_ and to finish his work (which includes) \_\_\_\_\_."
- F. What things do you allow to take precedence over Kingdom priorities?

III. Principles of the Harvest: (John 4:35-38)

- A. What do you think Jesus means by countering the proverb, "Four months more and then comes the harvest?"
- B. What are the disciples now blind to that Jesus wants them to become aware of?
- C. What "crop" does Jesus expect his disciples to reap "even now"?
- D. Compare and contrast the two tasks of sowing and reaping.
- E. Read and relate I Cor. 3:6-9 to this passage. How should those with different responsibilities in the whole process of spiritual agriculture view one another?
- F. What does Jesus say to those who have the privilege of spiritually reaping?
- G. How can these words of Jesus help you to fulfill your spiritual calling?

IV. A Personal Encounter with the Savior: (John 4:39-42)

- A. What was the response of the Samaritans?
- B. How long did Jesus remain with them? What happened during that time?
- C. How is ... the initial interest by the Samaritans explained? ... the final conviction?
- D. What conclusion do the Samaritans make regarding Jesus identity? Why?
- E. From these verses, describe the role of testimonies in bringing others to Christ.
- F. Read Acts 8:1-8. How might these two accounts be related? What can we learn?