

Gospel of John (lesson 12)

Review:

In the last lesson, John 4:1-26, Jesus had a one-on-one with the “woman at the well”. He revealed he knew her sin, and also told her that he was the Messiah.

John 4:27-42

27 Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 29 “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” 30 They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

31 Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.”

32 But he said to them, **“I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”**

The disciples were focused on the physical need for food. Jesus understands that eternal life flows from the Spirit within us. When we fast, we switch from physical food to spiritual food.

33 Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?”

34 **“My food,”** said Jesus, **“is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.”**

Jesus was 'on mission' and was operating in the Spirit. He was not distracted by the physical stimuli of hunger or fatigue. Jesus fought through the physical barriers to complete his spiritual assignment. When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness by the devil after fasting for 40 days, he was at his weakest physically, but at his strongest spiritually.

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35 Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. 36 Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. 37 Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. 38 I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

These words are true for us today as well.

39 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. 41 And because of his words many more became believers.

42 They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

We must have a personal relationship with Jesus. We cannot believe on someone's testimony alone.