



Series: The Gospel of John: For God so Loved...
Date: October 30, 2022
Speaker: Joseph Anderson, Campus Pastor Mercy Northeast
Text: John 4:27-42
Title: The Mission is a Meal

Intro

- What's up NE
- Yall looking good today
- Looking all multigenerational and what not
- Where my 80's babies at make some noise
- What about my 90's babies
- Ok ok 2000's
 - Ok yall gon learn something new today

- And all my pre-80s babies
 - The 80's and 90's babies
 - for the first time
 - have something of immense value to teach you
 - Yall ready for this?
- For my 80's and 90's babies do yall remember this?



Healthy Food Pyramid





- Yes, it's the Healthy food pyramid
 - In the early 90's the United States Department of Agriculture or (USDA)
 - Created this little Pyramid to help adults consume a healthy diet
- Their premise was that eating a balanced diet from the different categories
 - Would lead to good health
 - and long life
- So, from the bottom tier of the pyramid, they suggested grains
 - So that's bread and pasta
 - we got a pretzel some waffles
 - And how often did they recommend we eat grains
 - They recommended 6-11 servings ... per day
 - Whoow the 90's what a time
- The 2nd tier fruits and vegetables
 - Just 2-5 servings
- Meats and dairy
 - 2-3
 - And on occasion you get some candy
- This is the United States government considered a balanced diet
 - Yikes
- Good news
 - They don't teach this in schools anymore
- But still the concept is important
 - the concept of a balanced diet is extremely important
 - even necessary
 - It is still helpful to know which foods to consume
 - foods to avoid
 - and foods to eat in moderation
- And even though the food pyramid wasn't the way to do that
 - there is something Essential about a balanced diet
- And get This
- it is not only important from a physical aspect
 - It is essential for our spiritual health



- Today Jesus is going to introduce us to a type of spiritual nourishment
- A nourishment I would argue we do not consume enough of
 - he will speak of a bread that the disciples know nothing about
- Could it be that our
 - joy in Christ
 - our experience of him
 - And our spiritual health in general
 - Could be lacking because of an unbalanced spiritual diet
- Today Jesus is going to tell us that his mission to tell people about the kingdom of God
 - and becoming salvation is food to him
 - In essence we will learn that the mission is food to
- Say it with me yall
 - **the mission is food too**
- Is anyone else often hungry for God but left longing for more
 - Could it be that we are missing an entire category of our spiritual food pyramid
- Well buckle up Saints because today the Lord is going to teach us how to balance our diets
 - We will start by walking through the story
 - Recapping a lot of what we learned last week
 - Then we will transition into this middle section
 - Where Jesus talks about food
 - And Harvest
 - And finally, we will conclude with 5 essential trues to remember
 - As we balance our diets
- So, before we dive in let's pray

THE STORY

- So, let's pick up where we left off last week



- Last week Pastor Jake Introduced us to a Samaritan woman
 - We saw Jesus chose to come through Samaria
 - The very Samaria that all Jews avoided
 - Just in case it wasn't clear last week
 - the Jews and Samaritans hated each other
 - The Jews destroyed the Samaritan Temple
 - the Samaritans responded by scattering dead men's bones in the Jewish temple
 - It was more than a decade long feud
 - And it didn't end with Jesus's road trip
 - 20 years after Jesus 's visit
 - Some Jews would travel through a different part of Samaria
 - And they were all massacred
 - So, as you can see
 - They wanted all the smoke
 - And so can you imagine
 - Jesus is dragging his disciples through this region
 - they stopped at a well
 - They're hungry
 - so, they go in town for some groceries
 - and they come back in Jesus is talking to her
 - And the text says they were amazed
- 27** Just then his disciples arrived, and they were amazed that he was talking with a woman. Yet no one said, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"
- Pastor Jake covered it last week
 - but you just didn't talk to women in public
 - Not to you wife
 - not to your daughter
 - And certainly not strange women
 - At a well
 - In Samaria
 - In the heat of the day



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- This culture of the Jewish religious Elite
 - was Purity culture on steroids
 - as if getting close to a woman would infect them with the lust & immorality

 - In this culture women were not to be shepherded or cared for
 - but avoided and managed

 - But Not Jesus
 - He was not infected with the sexism of his day
 - Nor was he concerned with The Whispers of those around him

 - Jesus would instead use this as an opportunity to **free his disciples** of their narrow-mindedness
 - and help them remember the glorious nature of their own salvation

 - You see the disciples were amazed that he was talking to her
 - because they were no longer amazed that he stopped and spoke with them
- Fisherman
 - Zealots
 - tax collectors
 - all from a little town called Nazareth
 - that people in other cities assumed nothing good came out of
- And yet after just a little time with Jesus
 - they thought they were too good to tell somebody about the salvation
 - That they had done nothing to earn

 - They had forgotten that their sins were many
 - and started to believe that their sins were Mini

 - They had neglected the fact that **all that qualified them** for their first conversation with Jesus
 - Was there brokenness
 - And there obscurity

 - And when you stop being amazed at Jesus's Grace for you



- You become skeptical of His grace for others
- if you don't believe me, ask the Pharisees
- But saints we have to understand this fundamental reality about who Jesus is
 - We learned last week
 - he loves to move toward brokenness
 - and this woman had it in spades
- She was a half blooded
 - Second class
 - Morally questionable
 - Woman
- AND... she was a perfect candidate for the love of God
 - she knew her need
 - she would delight in Mercy
 - And be blown away by grace
- JESUS did not despise her like the people of the town
 - She was keenly aware of how scandalous his pursuit for her was!!!
- But heres the thing
 - His pursuit of the disciples was just as scandalous
 - and so is his Pursuit of Us
- And we will not be able to eat of the food Christ with speaker without this awareness
- The Samaritan woman grasped this
- Look at her response
- after she encounters Jesus
 - she leaves her water jar
 - Goes into town
 - and says

28 Then the woman left her water jar, went into town, and told the people, **29** "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?"



- Everything changed for her that day
 - her experience with Jesus compelled her to go to the very people she sought to avoid
 - When she went to the well In the Heat of the day

 - She still had questions
 - could this be the Messiah?
 - She wasn't sure
 - but she couldn't deny the fact that he saw her
 - Everything she ever did
 - and she couldn't deny that his eyes that pierced her soul
 - were still full of love

 - So, she goes to town
 - likely to a place she knows very well
 - the place where the men all gather
 - Likely it was the place where her story was most known
 - Because yall know men love to talk about these kind of women

 - But she doesn't care
 - She goes anyway
 - And the results are amazing
- 30 They left the town and made their way to him.**
- So, we have to ask the question
 - what on Earth did she say to them!!!

 - she was Mrs. steal yo man turned Billy graham

 - This is amazing
 - I'd like to believe she knew something of the food Jesus is getting ready to tell us about

 - And so, let's get to it

 - While she's in town giving her story
 - the disciples arrived back at Jesus
 - When they went into town to get food
 - They left Jesus hungry at a well
 - so, their expectation is that he will gratefully eat with they have brought him



- but they were in for a surprise

31 In the meantime the disciples kept urging him, "Rabbi, eat something."

- After all they had gone all the way into town to get food for him
 - And the women has left
 - And there seemed to be time

32 But he said, "I have food to eat that you don't know about."

- And so, they wonder if the women had bread in her pocket
 - Did she share her midday snack with Jesus
- They say

33 The disciples said to one another, "Could someone have brought him something to eat?"

- Ohh the disciples missed it again
 - Today thought of literal bread
 - like the woman had thought of literal water
 - and Nicodemus. A literal birth

- The disciples primary concern In This Moment what's finding fuel for their bodies
 - but Jesus would pause and take a moment
 - to teach them how to self-feed their souls

- Somebody say
 - the mission is food too

- He Refused to brush past their unperceived need
 - by accepting their bread
 - He wanted to teach them about Spiritual bread

- He says

34 "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work," Jesus told them.

- And here we see
 - Jesus calls the mission food
- He calls obedience to the father



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- The very substance that fuels him
 - He likens his desire to encounter this woman
 - **To the** most foundational
 - and fundamental of all human experiences
 - Eating
 - As human beings we know there is nothing
 - like a first bite of something delightful
 - like the comfort of something familiar
 - like the fellowship that the magnetic table brings
 - Every culture
 - in every place
 - since the beginning of time
 - have gathered around food
 - And Jesus says
 - That the physical longing he had prior to this interaction
 - has been satisfied with the spiritual substance
 - of obedience to his Father
 - Do you see now why verse 4 says
 - he had to go through Samaria
 - He had a Divine appointment with a needy woman that he would not miss
 - awaiting him there was Joy
 - Sustenance
 - Satisfaction
 - and delight
 - And see this
 - this obedience is not primarily morality
 - it is at its foundation mission
 - His satisfaction was not found in the do's and don'ts of religion
 - But in the execution of helping others know the glorious grace of their creator
 - His food was going to the outcasts of outcast with the gospel
 - This was not the sustenance of Bible readings
 - And prayer
 - Good food
 - but not the meal of this moment



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- Not the food of our spiritual disciplines
 - Though Jesus has quiet times of epic proportions
 - spending entire evening in the mountains in prayer
 - He just knew that
 - The mission is food too
 - His lunch after a long journey
 - was to go to the most broken person
 - among a broken people
 - to tell her that he saw her
 - but she still had dignity in his eyes
 - that she was still worth saving
 - This would be his primary source of sustenance for the day
 - And here's the good news
 - God still Sprints towards broken people
 - So, hear me you who thinks that you are too far gone
- Jesus sees you
 - he can save you
 - running to you delights him
 - Giving you life brings him great Joy
- And if you received **this** life
 - you can also share in **this** meal
 - For the food of the mission is not a scarce meal
 - it is an entire Harvest
 - See v 35
- 35** "Don't you say, 'There are still four more months, and then comes the harvest'?"
- Listen to what I'm telling you: Open[Ⓜ] your eyes and look at the fields, because they are ready[Ⓜ] for harvest.
- Essentially, he says
 - This food that I have just received in telling this woman about the kingdom
 - Can be yours in abundance
 - If this interaction was a loaf of bread



- then friends there is an entire harvest to be had
- God didn't just make a divine appointment for Jesus on this day
 - This was not a special occasion
 - A one-off event
 - Jesus's point here is that there are many
 - Divinely ordained appointments
 - Set aside for his disciples
 - And there are many divinely ordained appointments
 - For us to tell someone the greatest news humanity has ever received
 - **All for the sake of our nourishment**
- Oh, saints God has set aside good works for you to do
 - He has planned to call many people to his self
 - And he wants to use you to do it
 - For his glory and for your joy
 - Because **the mission is food too**
- To understand what Jesus is saying
- we must understand the culture of the day
 - this is an agrarian society
 - the Harvest means everything
- A good harvest would mean provision
- A good harvest would lead to celebration
 - Life
 - bounty
 - Joy
- The lives of the people revolved around the harvest
- The saying
 - **There are four months and then comes the Harvest** was a common phrase among the people
 - it was their way of looking forward
 - it was their countdown to celebration
 - it was their Most Wonderful Time of the Year
- And just as Jesus has exalted spiritual food
 - above physical bread



- he is now highlighting the superiority of the spiritual Harvest
 - above and beyond what they **once built their lives around**

Open⁽¹⁾ your eyes and look at the fields, because they are ready⁽¹⁾ for harvest.

- My food you can have also
 - there is life to be had
- it's here for you Now
- Listen to all the satisfaction promise in verse 36-38

36 The reaper is already **receiving pay ...**

and gathering **fruit for eternal life**, so that the sower and reaper can **rejoice together**.

37 For in this case the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' 38 I sent you to reap what you **didn't labor for**; others have labored, and you have **benefited from⁽¹⁾ their labor**."

- Ohh saints do you hear the joy of **this** Harvest ...
- This is the better Harvest
 - cease building your life around physical sowing and reaping
 - Stop living for physical bread only
 - stop existing for physical provision
 - Physical pleasures
- The Harvest of our material world
 - it's temporary
 - and fleeting
 - And it **will not** satisfy your soul
- But the Harvest that Jesus speaks of **...**
 - Will nourish every part of you
- So, hear this
 - The mission is not only food
 - it is food in abundance
 - it is a harvest



- So let me ask again are you hungry
 - Christian
 - Do you find yourself longing for more of God
 - Dissatisfied with the distance
 - Is your yearning outpacing your experience
- Maybe just maybe it's due to an imbalance diet
- Maybe you need to eat more mission
 - if you are reading your Bible
 - setting aside time to pray
 - and by all accounts walking with the Lord
 - but you still want more
- Hear me there is food yet to be had
 - Because the mission is food to
- So here we are as promised
 - 5 truth we must remember to help us believe
 - The mission is food to
- Truth number 1
 - we've been speaking about all morning

- but let me state it plainly

1) We must remember that the mission is food as well

- The mission
 - God's plan to fill the world with worshipers
 - BY having those who have known his salvation
 - Telling others about God's glorious salvation
- And a Question we may ask is
 - how can we know that the mission will actually satisfy us
 - Of course, it brought Joy to Jesus, but will it work for us
- Saints we can know that the mission will bring joy to us because it brought joy to her
 - A regular sinner sitting at a well
- We can know that what was food for Jesus will be food for us

Commented [1]: clarify what the mission is?



- because it became drink to her
- The woman at the well is evidence to us that this really works
 - That are Hunger really can be satisfied
 - Our thirst really can be quenched
- It was not out of obligation that she went back into town
 - it was for the sake of her own Joy
 - she was overwhelmed that Jesus
 - saw her
 - And loved her
 - And it delighted her to go and tell others
- As I was preparing to preach earlier this week
 - I took a moment to go on a walk and just be with the Lord
 - the weight of bringing the word of God his people was weighing on me and I needed to give it to him
 - And even as I read the passage, I felt the call to balance my diet
 - And so, I walk outside
 - and there is one of my neighbors
- and everything in me wanted to wave as I put in the air pod
 - to ensure that there would not be a conversation because I had to go talk to God
- but I couldn't get away from the notion that I needed to balance my diet
- maybe the peace that I sought
- wouldn't come through prayer and isolation which I love
- but maybe you would come through having a conversation with my neighbor about Jesus
- So, I took a very simple gesture and asked her how she was doing
 - she wasn't doing well
 - she was hurting
 - And the Lord had for me sit and pray with her
 - And when I got up
 - I went on my walk
 - and I was able to say thank you Lord for that food
 - my soul is nourished



- Brothers and sisters, we must Remember
 - that the mission is food too

2) We must Remember to leave our Jar

- How does It Strike you that her Encounter with Jesus instantaneously changed her priorities
 - she abandoned her entire agenda for the day
 - Fetch the water
 - ehe
 - clean the house
 - maybe tomorrow
 - Cook dinner
 - Nope
 - share the gospel with the entire Village
 - Fat Check Mark
- Her **Instinct** after Jesus was to change what was preeminent in her life
 - What was initially important
 - had become inconvenient

- in light of her Newfound purpose
- so, she left the jar

- her drink now become to do the will of him who had sent her
 - It Became sustenance
 - It Became life

- So let me ask you
- what Jars are keeping you from this feast
 - From drinking deeply from Jesus
 - Preference to eat dinner with just your family
 - Perceived limitations
 - The excessive indulging in entertainment
 - A jam-packed schedule
 - What is it
 - Is it the high demands of your Job
- Saints don't love Your family to the exclusion of the mission
 - trust God with your limitation
 - turn off the TV
 - put down your phone



-
- clear your schedule
 - leave your jar
 - Are you hungry
 - There is food waiting on you
 - And maybe you're asking
 - What is my jar is my Job
 - What if it's my Job keeping me from mission
 - Well can I just say
 - Your Job is not your purpose
 - The mission is
 - Your Job is only a vehicle to accomplish the mission
 - AND... There is likely a feast waiting for you at your Job
 - Maybe you're not feeling fulfilled in your job
 - because **your job** was never meant to fill you
 - It's NOT FOOD
 - What if you're there
 - because there are we lost people
 - everywhere
 - who need to know about the God who saved you
 - Your Job is not your purpose
 - It is a Jar
 - That you should leave behind
 - If it is keeping you from going with the gospel
 - That's a hot take
 - But let me ask you thirsty saint
 - carrying around jars seeking to collect well water
 - Would you cast them off
 - if you knew Your Eternal thirst could be quenched
 - Hear me ... It can be
 - Hungry Christian
 - Will you build your life around this Harvest
 - and reap the many benefits
 - both present and eternal
-



- How do you do that
 - I'm so glad you asked
 - we love helping people take next steps
 - Over the Christmas season we will be serving some of the communities in Charlotte
 - more information to come but what an opportunity to meet people where they are
 - in 2023 will be starting a new round of disciple-making teams
 - here we train our people to be **cross-cultural ministers** to help them effectively take the gospel in our city and to the end of the Earth
 - what would it look like for you to make time in your schedule
 - To be trained and equipped
 - CG Leaders
 - These are just 3 of many opportunities that will be put before you
 - and before you say you're too busy
 - remember to leave your jar

- There's food to be had here
- Truth number 3

3) Remember you are only sharing what it is you love

- Do you love him
 - do you love Jesus
 - do you love your salvation
 - do you love his glory
- If Yes
 - Then share it
- If you are a human being
 - then you love sharing what you love
 - You know it's true
- See me I have a thing about movies
 - My joy and watching movies are founded purely on my ability to predict what is going to happen
 - I love to try and figure it out



- this means that once I watch the movie Once
- I don't need to watch it again
- as a rule, I generally only watch movies one time
- however, there is an exception
 - I will re-watch a movie that I enjoyed with someone who has never seen it before
 - And the simple reason is because I love to share the things that I enjoy
- That's why my wife loves to talk to me about plants
 - and my son loves to talk to me about Paw Patrol
 - and Rashard loves to talk to me about Texas
- our design dictates that we share what we love
- C.S. Lewis says
 - "I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise **not** merely expresses but **completes** the enjoyment"
- So, then I ask again do you enjoy God
- If so, the mission will be food to you
- If it gives you life to talk about
 - Listen to
 - And then talk about Listening to the midnights album at a listening party
- How much more life should you get
 - from telling people about the one who told you everything you ever did
- If it brings you Joy to talk to strangers about the NFL
 - how much more joy should we get for telling a stranger about the living water
 -
- If your strength is replenished sharing how the market is up
 - You will mount up on wings like eagles
 - Sharing Jesus got up out of the grave
- Ohh, do you love him saints
 - Then you better tell somebody

Commented [2]: Do people actually enjoy talking about the Panthers right now? 😊



- David knew this to be true
 - He feasted on the mission
 - Hear his satisfaction
 - Joy and delight in psalm 96

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song.

1 Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.

3 Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!

4 For great is the Lord, and greatly to
be praised;

he is to be feared above all gods.

5 For all the gods of the peoples are
worthless idols,

but the Lord made the heavens.

6 Splendor and majesty are before
him;

strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

7 Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the
peoples,

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

8 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his
name;

- We can trust that mission is food too
 - because we are designed to share what we love

4) We must remember that on mission is where we experience Jesus

- If you want to be close to Jesus
 - be on mission
- As I mentioned earlier my wife loves plants
 - so, on her Sabbath she may go to a nursery
 - and here's the thing
 - I want to be with her on those days
 - I need to go where she goes
- My mama loves shopping
 - so, what I want to be near to her on a specific day
 - it would be advantageous for me to go to the stores with her
- It would be silly for me to sit on my couch at home and lament our distance



- so just like you would find my mama at Marshalls
- and my wife at pikes
- you're going to find the Jesus on Mission

Matt 28

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- Jesus is still currently on Mission
 - Still calling people to himself
 - his bread is still the salvation of the Saints
 - if you want to be where he is
- You cannot **only**
 - **Only** wake up early sit in front of your Bible

- but you need also to go where he has committed himself to be.
 - He loves your Neighbor
 - will you go to then he's there
 - he loves the outcast
 - when you go them
 - behold he will be with you also

- Francis Chan says it like this
- Jesus was not giving us his spirit so that we could merely feel him.
 - like some kind of divine teddy bear.
 - He gave us the spirit and his power so we could be his Witnesses.
 - And he accompanies us, not so we can have happy families, but so we can make disciples.

- So, if you want to Feast on Jesus
 - We have to go where he is at

- OK we've said a lot
 - But there is one more very significant thing we must remember



- as we balance our diet

- And that is number five

5) Remember that Jesus has finished the work

- Let's pick back up in verse 39

39 Now many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of what the woman said, when she testified, "He told me everything 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 Many more believed because of what he said. 42 And they told the woman, "We no longer believe because of what you said, since we have heard for ourselves and know that this really is the Savior of the world."

- I need you to see this
 - the woman was the opener
 - but Jesus was the closer
- There are people that you interact with every day that need Jesus
 - What would happen if you lived your life
 - Who listening for the Holy Spirit to prompt you

- How many more people would you pray for
 - how many more people would you share with
 - how much more satisfaction would you have in Jesus
- And here's the thing
- Jesus Doesn't need you to save anyone
 - just introduce him
- That's all the women did
 - they said
 - "We no longer believe because of what you said, since we have heard for ourselves
 - And they concluded
 - this really is the Savior of the world."
- Can you imagine the joy of this woman
 - how her soul feasted on this Harvest
 - As she delighted in their collective worship
 - of the one who told her everything she ever did



-
- All she did was make an introduction
 - Jesus finished the work

 - And can I say
 - He finished the work in more than 1 way

 - How can the deeps of a sinful women be forgiven by a holy God
 - At this point in Jesus's ministry the full work of salvation was incomplete

 - Ohh but for the joy set before him he endured the cross
 - For the joy set before him
 - he took on the sin of this woman with five husbands
 - in the sin of the disciples
 - And the sins that we have committed
 - And he carried them to the cross

 - And Jesus finished the work of our salvation by dying on a cross
 - And getting up from the grave 3 days latter
- So, hear me
 - There is much joy to be had in Jesus
 - Much life to be had in carrying out his mission
 - There is food to be had here

 - So will you feast on All that he has for you
 - The mission is food to

 - Let us pray