



Come and See... Deeper Study Notes

Sowers and Reapers Rejoice (John 4:27-42)

Questions to reflect on relating to the sermon:

- Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus? Is your faith your own or do you need to do some work to 'own it' for yourself? If you're not sure, consider these scenarios: imagine someone offered you £1m, would you find it hard/even consider using any of it for God's Kingdom work? Imagine a friend asked you to explain why you follow Jesus and what difference he makes, what would you say? What would you do if you were faced with losing your job, or even your life, for following Jesus — on your best day how might you honestly react? If you need someone to walk with you in this area, please get in touch or chat with another Christian you trust.
- Do you see potential or problems when considering sharing the gospel with others? If you mainly see 'problems', why not reflect on the persecuted church and their willingness to spread the Word despite the enormous risk to life—how could that help you reframe the challenges you're facing? If you mainly see 'potential', how might you encourage others in their struggle in this area?
- How open are you to listening to the Holy Spirit throughout your day? What gets in the way even when you're willing? Why not commit to start each day with this simple prayer and heart-desire in the next week (and beyond?): "Lord, this day I want to serve you how ever you want to use me. Help me be open and hear the prompting of your Spirit and to have the confidence to act when it comes even if I don't really understand. Amen." Share with others how you have found (even just) praying this prayer, let alone living it out.

Deeper Study Questions

In John 4:37, Jesus says "For in this the saying is true, 'One sows and another reaps.'" Let's take a closer look at what this might mean.

- Who did the sowing in John 4:1-30? What was the role of the disciples (see v38)?
- How many people does Jesus' imply are involved in the process of sowing and reaping? Is this a hard rule? If not, what is Jesus reminding us about our part in God's mission?
- Think about the processes involved in sowing and reaping in agriculture. How might you map these out into the call to share the gospel? What does it mean to be 'ripe' for reaping today?
- In your understanding, what needs to be done to become a follower of Jesus? Can you back that up with verses from the Bible?
- As church we can sometimes be guilty of being territorial in our efforts to share the gospel. What does this passage teach us about how the gospel is sowed and reaped?
- Consider the story in Acts 8:26-40. Is this a unique case or can we use this as a model for our approach to conversion and baptism? If so, does that create any issues with your own thoughts about what should happen?
- If we have the wrong understanding of this saying in our efforts to share Jesus, we could easily become discouraged and, more dangerously, judgemental of those we're expecting to respond. Therefore, how does 1 Corinthians 15:58 tell us we should respond? And considering 1 Corinthians 3:5-9, how should we view ourselves in this process?
- What two key words might you use to summarise the way we should see ourselves when 'reaping' or 'sowing'?