

John 4:31-54 – Jesus' Food and His 2nd Sign

Jesus was at Jacob's well which was near Shechem. Shechem was between Mt Gerizim and Mt Ebal. There is a lot of history to Shechem. Jacob bought a field there and Joseph's bones were brought back from Egypt and buried there. When Joshua lead Israel into the promised land, blessing were pronounced at Mt Gerizim and curses were pronounced at Mt Ebal. Another historic event occurred there. It was at Shechem that Israel split as a nation. In 1 Kings 12, the northern tribes said "What portion do we have in David." Verse 19 says "So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day." (ESV) Jesus came to this same historic area and revealed to the Samaritan woman that he was the Messiah. He was the Christ who was the offspring of David whose kingdom would not end. Would the Samaritan's end their rebellion against the house of David? Would they accept Jesus as the Christ, the Anointed One?

Read John 4:31-42.

The disciples just got back from buying food in the Samaritan town. They wanted Jesus to eat. What was Jesus' food? (4:31-34; Deuteronomy 8:3)

Jesus then talked about harvests, sowing and reaping. He didn't want the disciples to harvest barley or wheat. What did Jesus say about harvest, sowers and reapers? What did Jesus mean? How did this apply to the disciples? (4:35-38)

If we peek ahead to verse 45, many people of Galilee had seen Jesus perform signs at the Passover in Jerusalem. Since the Samaritans did not worship in Jerusalem, the Samaritans did not see Jesus perform any signs. How did the Samaritans respond to Jesus before they met him? Why did they respond this way? (4:39)

When the Samaritans met Jesus, what did they want Jesus to do? (4:40)

How did the Samaritans respond to Jesus while he stayed with them? (4:41-42)

Why did many Samaritans believe? What did they believe and know about Jesus? (4:42)

Read John 4:43-54.

Why did the Galileans welcome Jesus? How were the Galileans different from the Samaritans in their reception of Jesus? (4:43-45)

Jesus returned to Cana of Galilee where he turned the water to wine. An official came to Jesus. He may have been a royal official under Herod. We don't know how long his son had been ill or what help he previously had tried to get. He went out of his way to seek help from Jesus. What did the official want Jesus to do? Why did the official ask Jesus for help? (4:46-49)

In verse 48, Jesus said to the official, "Unless you all see signs and wonders, you all will not believe" Jesus was not just referring to the official. He was speaking generally. What is the purpose of signs and wonders?

When the official repeated his urgent request to Jesus, what did Jesus do? Did Jesus do what the official wanted? How can we apply this? Do we ever pray and suggest how God should do something instead of letting God know our need and leaving the means to God? (4:49-50)

How did the official respond to what Jesus said? How was the official's son healed? (4:50-53)

What was the result of the second sign which Jesus did in Cana? (4:25-26)

What does this sign reveal about Jesus?