

Jesus Christ – „Master, take some food“

John 4,27-35

We long, thirst and hunger for a life that makes sense. We see how this can happen in the story of Jesus' encounter with the woman from Samaria.

1. Follow Jesus (John 4:5-7)

Here we see Jesus himself hungry and thirsty. We see a woman looking for water. But there was nothing she could do to satisfy her inner thirst. To make her life meaningful again and fill her with joy. Her thirst, unsatisfied, keeps returning. Jesus offers her a solution. John 4,14 „ *But whoever takes the water I give him will never be in need of drink again; for the water I give him will become in him a fountain of eternal life.*”

Hunger and thirst is proof that there must be a source that can actually satisfy that hunger and thirst. And the way Jesus meets the desperate woman convinces us that the meaning and joy of life does not lie in boundaries, rules, or comparing ourselves to others. It does not lie in anything we can achieve on our own, but is drawn to the power of the well that is Christ Himself! Follow Jesus.

2. Tell the truth (John 4:16-17)

Who wouldn't crave such a resource! Even the woman longed for a practical solution that would relieve her of the need to make the daily, hated journey to the well in the midday heat with heavy jugs on her shoulders. So she asked for water. But Jesus wanted to solve a much deeper need than just the problem of the difficulty of getting fresh water. She had to admit to herself that her life was totally disconnected. Her relationships with men were disconnected, her relationship with her community was disconnected - and most of all, her relationship with God was locked in barriers and needed reconnecting. There is no shame in admitting we are thirsty when we arrive at the well. In the presence of Jesus, it is safe to tell the truth. It is another important step in making life meaningful again and filling us with joy. Tell Jesus the truth.

3. Listen to the Holy Spirit (John 4:23)

The woman was immoral, worthless, unwanted, despised in the eyes of the people. . . .but in God's eyes, she was exactly the kind of person God was looking for. This is a very important moment in our story, because here the voice of the Spirit is heard - God is looking for you, longing for you. It is a moment when it is as if God has cut through the darkness with light - immoral, worthless, unwanted, despised, unneeded, useless, meaningless - but God longs for it.

This is where true worship happens. The more deeply we touch our own human reality through truth, and the more open we are to hearing the voice of the Spirit - the more power and influence of God's acceptance and love we can draw upon to transform our lives. Listen to the Spirit.

4. Leave the water-pot (John 4:27-30)

What's fascinating about the story is that we have two hungry and thirsty people, they're at the well - then even the disciples come with food, but nobody ends up drinking the physical water or touching the physical food. The water-pot will remain empty. Not only that, even the woman leaves the water-pot lying at the well and walks away. She came to the well with her dissatisfaction, frustration, anger, pain, she came with fatigue and thirst - and she leaves with joy and a new purpose for her life. Jesus didn't fill her jug - he took it away. All that she thought could saturate her life became almost meaningless - because he redirected and transformed her life as a whole. Maybe it's some jug that's keeping you from living the true meaning of your life. Let that jug lie.

5. Do His will (John 4:31-34)

Doing God's will may sound like a difficult and exhausting task for us. Not that it can't sometimes be, it certainly took Jesus a lot of effort, energy, and time to "do God's will." After all, he is tired, hungry, thirsty. Yet he thinks of none of these inconveniences now. He is completely enthralled with his mission to do God's will. It gives him purpose and joy! It fulfills him more than anything else. Doing God's will is His food.

We do a lot of things to be "satisfied." But it's still not enough and drives us to have more. The benefit of doing God's will is that God's demands are not infinite, maximalistic, beyond our strength - but are personalized just for our particular lives. God does not give us His will as a condition, but as an opportunity.

6. How to recognize God's will (John 4:35)

Most of us somehow internally agree that it is good to do God's will. But how do we know what God's will is? It would be nice if God told me exactly what to do! Like who to marry, what to study, where to work. We eagerly listen to stories in which people tell of God's supernatural guidance . . . Usually God guides us in a very ordinary way. What does the Bible actually say in John 4:35?

You already know what you have to do - in this case, harvest. The only problem is that you say "there are still four months to go". Not now - we'll make it out of four months. Our problem really isn't that we don't know what we should do, it's that we don't pay attention to it and put it off.

So - if you want to do God's will in your life, if you want your life to make sense, do the 5 steps of the woman from Samaria:

1. Follow Jesus
2. Tell him the truth
3. Listen to His Spirit
4. Leave the empty water-pot
5. Do his will and rejoice in it

You already know what to do - don't put it off.

Speaking of God's will, there is one more thing that has been in the works for a long time. That is the harvest itself. You are the harvest - God wants to transform you - He wants to see His WILL in your life, but He also wants His WILL to change your environment through you. And here, too, it has long been true . . . "the meadows are white unto harvest".

Yes, you already know what to do - there's just no need to put it off. Yes, there are already people around ready to hear and accept that Jesus is their only hope and salvation - no need to wait any longer, just go for it. The same 5 steps can help you:

1. Walk with Jesus - remember, he is with you everywhere
2. Be true and authentic in your concern and love for others
3. Walk in the Spirit - pray and be guided in what to do, say
4. Abandon the water-pot - don't be afraid to challenge others to abandon what will not quench their thirst and offer Christ
5. God's will - don't be afraid to give a challenge to follow Christ - a life that makes sense

Amen