

# A VISION FOR EVERYONE

## **John 4.27-38**

God is working. All the time. All around us. God is doing things that you and I can't imagine. When I pause and think about it, I am overcome with amazement at a God who is so big and so powerful. But, let me be honest for just a moment. Sometimes, stopping and thinking about God working like this disturbs me a little bit. Quite frankly, it creates something of a problem for me. You see, a God who works all the time, everywhere, works in what that make me uncomfortable, in places that I would prefer not to go. He works outside the lines of what I would define as normal and acceptable. That would be great if it was just God out there, working away having a grand time doing His thing. The problem comes in that He isn't just out there doing His own thing. He calls for us to join Him.

God want us to join Him, even if it means stepping outside the lines of what we might consider normal and acceptable. He wants us to be part of what He is doing, to be part of His work. That makes me a little bit squeamish. I like new things and experiences. Don't get me wrong. I just want the ability to run back to my zone of comfort if it doesn't work the way I want it to go. Better yet, I prefer the opportunity not to try things that take me way beyond the category of "new things" to "Toto, I don't think we are in Kansas anymore." I don't know if I am up for that. I wonder why. Why the hesitancy to step out and join God?

I think, for me, the hesitancy is found in the words of Jesus found in John 4.32-33. Doing God's will, joining God was like eating for Jesus. Or to put it another way, the most important, sustaining factor of Jesus' life was seeking to join God in what He was doing. That seems to be the trouble for me. I don't know if most days I can say that the most important and sustaining thing for me is to join God in what He is doing. More often than not, it is the opposite. I feel affirmed and alive when God joins me. That isn't the way it works; probably because He is God and I am not. So what is it going to take for the roles to reverse? At least for me, it is taking steps to find meaning and fulfillment in God alone. I can't see joining God as the most important thing if I am finding meaning in anything other than God alone. I am discovering that when life becomes about anything other than God then I drift toward hesitancy, toward resisting His call. Simply put, for God's vision, His will to become my own, I have to be owned by God first. So for me, this is where I am going to start.

A fellow traveler,

Blake  
Spiritual Formation Pastor

## **My Next Step**

We encourage you to consider doing the following as a way of handing off faith to your family. . .

- **God is all we need:** Ultimately, God is all that we need. When we discover this truth, we discover the freedom to leave behind what feels comfortable and safe for the purpose of joining God in what He is doing. This week, seek to instill the truth about God's sufficiency by teaching your children the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. You might seek to memorize this Psalm together as a family this week. Talk together about the first verse. What does it mean for God to be our shepherd? What does it mean to have all we need in Him? Be open and honest about your own struggles in this area with your children. They will appreciate your honesty. They know the truth anyway. If your children are old enough, consider having conversations about what steps you can take to begin trusting in God as all you need.

We encourage you to take one of the following next steps on your faith journey. . .

- **Replacing falsehood with truth:** Life, real life is found only in God. However, we live in a culture that teaches us to find meaning in our achievements, our possessions, even our standing in relation to others. Apart from finding meaning in God we will not be able to accept and act on His will as our own. The first step in finding meaning in God is to replace the falsehoods taught to us by our culture with the truth found in God's word. As we begin to have truth flow through our minds we will find ourselves able to think and act differently. This week, consider memorizing and meditating on Psalm 23, Psalm 37.4, Luke 9.23-25 as steps toward filling your mind with truth.