

## **“Seize Opportunities While You Can”**

John 4:27-42

Sunday, April 8, 2018

**Introduction:** We have all had opportunities that we missed for one reason or another. We just let them slip by. How does this happen? Maybe we did not see them. Maybe we saw them and thought that they were not good opportunities. All of us have had opportunities that for some reason we did nothing about.

When opportunities concerning the souls of people come, we need to seize them. In our Scripture text, we see good examples that will help us do that.

**Text:** John 4:27-42

- In John chapter 4, we read the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well.
- Jesus confronted the Samaritan woman about her sin (4:18), and then told her that He was the Messiah (4:26).
- Let’s pick up the story in verse twenty-seven.

### **1. Be Sensitive to God’s Timing.**

- “Just then His disciples arrived” (27).
- The disciples had gone into town to buy food (8).
- Had the disciples arrived earlier, they would have interrupted Jesus’ conversation with the Samaritan woman.
- Had the disciples arrived later, they would have missed what Jesus said.
- We see God timing throughout the story.

**Illustration:** At noon Jesus came to Jacob's well and sat down. At noon the Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. The disciples had gone to town to buy food.

**Application:** If you will connect the "dots" you will see God's timing. The key is to be sensitive to God's timing. God's will is important. God's way is important. God's timing is important.

**Illustration:** Last week James Webb, Chairman of the Board at Crossroads, came to visit with me. Crossroads is located on 45S at Parkplace. Each Tuesday and Thursday they feed 125 to 150 homeless people breakfast and lunch. In addition, they have provisions for showers, for laundry, haircuts bus passes and social services. He shared with me a need they had and how when they decided to move on the need in faith that our church began giving extra each month to pay for the need. This is how God's timing works.

**Question:** How will you know if something is in God's timing?

1. The "dot's" will connect.
2. You will have peace about it.

**2. See opportunities to meet needs as a mission field.**

- The disciples saw the Samaritan woman as an unclean half-bred.
- Jesus saw the Samaritan woman as a mission field.
- The Samaritan woman saw the people in Sychar as a mission field. She left her water pot and went to her people.

**Application:** This is where God's church fits. Jesus told the disciples to open their eyes and look at the fields because they were ready for harvest. Jesus used the fields of grain as a metaphor in this story for the Samaritans that were coming.

3. Jesus said some would sow and other would reap.

**Conclusion:** Let me share what I believe God put on my heart as I prepared this sermon. God opened my eyes about the six local mission fields our church supports monthly. (To hear the story, listen to the sermon on the church web page [www.dbp.org](http://www.dbp.org).)

If you take God out of politics and humanitarian efforts, all you are doing is making earth a better place to go to hell from.