Jesus’ Mission for the Father’s Worship and the Salvation of the World (4:1-42)

1. *Jesus’ Mission Drives His Every Action (vv.1-6)*
2. *Jesus’ Mission Aims at Providing Living Water to Thirsty Sinners (vv.7-15)*
3. *Jesus’ Mission Eternally Transforms Worship (vv.16-26)*
4. *Jesus’ Mission Demands Eager Gospel Proclamation (from Himself and His followers) (vv.27-38)*
5. Jesus’ Mission is to be Responded to By Genuine Faith (vv.39-42)
   1. The initial faith of the Samaritans (vv.39-40)
      1. Their faith was based on the woman’s testimony (v.39)
      2. Their faith led them to pursue a better knowledge of Jesus (v.40)
   2. The maturing faith of the Samaritans (vv.41-42)
      1. The two groups
         1. Those who had not gone out to Jesus (v.41)
         2. Those who had gone out to Jesus (v.42)
      2. The foundation of their faith
         1. It centered on the very word of Christ (v.41-42a)
         2. It corroborated of the testimony of the woman (v.42)

*“Like Nathanael, the Samaritans’ initial level of faith is based on another’s testimony (4:39), which is acceptable for initial faith (15:26-27; 17:20; 20:30-31). Once they “come” and “see” (4:29; cf. 1:46), however, they progress to a firsthand faith (4:42), which characterizes true disciples (10:3-4, 14-15). Thus, the Samaritans do not denigrate the woman’s testimony in 4:42; rather they confirm it.” (Keener)*

* + - 1. It confessed the identity of Jesus with certainty (v.42)
         1. Faith consists in knowledge of a specific body of teaching (“we have heard”)
         2. Faith consists of a certainty in that knowledge (“we know”)
         3. Faith rests in that which is believed and receives it for one’s own (“He is the Savior of the World”; cf. Isa. 45:21-25)

**Implications:**

1. Genuine faith drives one to know more about Jesus in His Word, and it continues to mature the more of Him it comes to know. Perseverance in Christ’s Word both proves our faith and it matures our faith.

1. Saving Faith embraces Jesus for who He is and what He has accomplished as recorded in the Scriptures. It rests there and receives it as one’s own. Then, it grows deeper in its knowledge of Him and obedience to Him.
2. Our evangelism must not neglect personal testimony, but it must not end there. It must aim at brining people to hear and know the specific teaching of Jesus for themselves. Apart from this, there can be no saving faith.
3. In our evangelism, we must rest in the power of Christ’s Word to produce faith (Rom. 10:17)
   1. This does not mean we do not reason or seek to show the reasonability of the Scriptures. They are reasonable, and they are very certain. We should seek to demonstrate this.
   2. This does not mean that we should not labor to make the Scriptures clear and accurately understood. We must be patient to explain it to unbelievers.
   3. This simply means that ultimately, Christ’s Words as they are contained in the Scriptures are the decisive factor in any and all saving faith. His Words prove themselves to be the very Words of God and by their own power through the Spirit create faith.
      1. They do this by their character of purity, God-centeredness, authority, accuracy, consistency, and ability to explain and align with what exists around us in a way nothing else is able (Jn. 7:46).
      2. They do this by their ability to expose and convict of sin and righteousness and judgment by the Holy Spirit (Jn. 16:8-11). Unbelief in the Word of Christ is not evidence that His Word is not true; it is actually evidence that His Word is just this (Jn. 3:19-20)!