

## THIS IS JESUS

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### John 4

- If you were with us at the beginning of this year, we walked through the book of John in a series we called This is Jesus
  - We felt it was important to set the tone and culture of our church with this series because in the midst of this great self-awareness and self-improvement movement now a days, we need to know more than ever that you will never know who you are until you know Who Jesus is
  - We as creation will never truly understand ourselves unless we get to know our Creator
- And John writes this Gospel, not as a newspaper to write on what Jesus did, but rather as more of a biography to show who Jesus is.
- Early on in the book of John, we see John the Baptist carrying out his purpose to prepare the

hearts of the people for the coming Messiah. So He was baptizing thousands of people out at the Jordan River until one day, Jesus comes out to him to be baptized as well.

- John says, “No way, I should be baptized by You!” But Jesus says “No, this is to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John baptizes Jesus, the Holy Spirit descends on Him like a dove and they hear a big booming voice come from Heaven that says, “This is My Son, with Whom I Am well pleased.”
- Thus inaugurates the public ministry of Jesus. Once Jesus begins His ministry John says that “He must increase, I must decrease” and now more people are starting to follow after Jesus than they are John. And the Pharisees started keeping score. And this is where we pick up in John chapter 4 verse 1:
- ***“Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John (although Jesus himself did not***

***baptize, but only His disciples), He left Judea and departed again for Galilee.”***

***-John 4:1-3 (ESV)***

- He wasn't going to be a part of a petty competition, so He removes Himself from the situation
- ***“And He had to pass through Samaria.”***  
***-John 4:4 (ESV)***
- Now this is odd that John wrote that He HAD to Samaria, because most Jews would HAVE to avoid Samaria. They hated Samaritans, we'll get more into that in a little bit, but even if Samaria was in their direct line of travel they would intentionally go around Samaria, lengthening their trip so that they didn't have to have anything to do with Samaritans...but Jesus thought different
- ***“So He came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as He was from His***

***journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman from Samaria came to draw water.”*** ***-John 4:5-7a (ESV)***

- Now this is interesting, because the 6th hour was noon time, this was 12pm. So normally the women would gather together in the mornings in the cool of the day, to make the walk out to the well to draw water. They wouldn't wait until the sun was the highest in the sky, during the hottest part of the day, to lug these big water jars out to the well, fill them up and then carry them back. It's as if this woman is intentionally going to the well at a time where she can avoid people, but Jesus is there for a divine appointment
- ***Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to Him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews***

***have no dealings with Samaritans.)” -John 4:7b-9 (ESV)***

- Again, Jews and Samaritans hated each other. One translation says that “Jews wouldn’t be caught dead talking to Samaritans.”
  - There were racial differences, because the Samaritans were only half Jews, and to the Jews, there was no more despicable race.
  - There were religious differences, the Samaritans only believed in the first 5 books of the OT, so they threw out all of the prophets and psalms and proverbs and what not. Also, they had their own Temple to worship God on Mt Gerizim, but the Jews were adamant that the only place you were allowed to worship was in Jerusalem, and it got so heated that one day the Jews went and raided their temple and destroyed it.
  - So there’s bad blood, these are bitter rivals, so they would avoid contact at all costs. If a Jew absolutely had to have a dealing with a Samaritan, it would have to be strictly

business, you would make your business transaction and get outa there. But NEVER under any circumstances, would a Jewish man, EVER be caught talking, interacting with a Samaritan woman! That was just lowest of the low in that society....But Jesus didn’t care...

- Jesus answered her, ***“If you knew the gift of God, and Who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”*** The woman said to Him, ***“Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.”*** Jesus said to her, ***“Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will***

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***become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” -John 4:10-14 (ESV)***

- Early on in Rachel and I’s marriage, I had one of the most traumatic experiences of my life. That that was when I decided to go with Rachel to a spin class. If you don’t know what spin class is, it’s where you have those stationary bikes and you kind of ride in place while the instructor tells you to go faster, or increase the resistance, or (to my surprise) some sort of acrobatics that you’re not aware of.
- Now, I was definitely reluctant to go to this class, not because I thought it was girly or effeminate but because I knew it was going to be difficult. You wouldn’t know it by looking at me, but I’m actually not in the best shape. (I have no wind or stamina). I have always had a high metabolism so weight was never really an issue for me, so working out hasn’t been a huge priority.
- But now that I’m in my 30’s, it’s kind of embarrassing whenever you play a game and a half of basketball and then you’re dry heaving on the sideline. So I went to this class for three reasons, to make my wife happy, to work on my stamina, and mainly because I had another guy friend who was going too and I knew I wouldn’t be the only one.
- So when the class started it wasn’t bad, and for about the first 30 minutes it was pretty fun. But then, it seemed like the class was never going to stop...and the longer the class went on, the only thing in the world that mattered to me was the next water break. Especially when he had us positioned on the bike where it was virtually impossible to let go of the handle bars and grab a drink of water! I LONGED to hear those words from the instructor, who I am convinced is half machine by the way, all I wanted to hear him say was “Ok, get some water!”
  - Studies show that there are few things in life that are more satisfying to the human body

than a drink of cold water in the midst of exhaustion.

- This lady that Jesus encounters is exhausted.
  - Not just from the walk out to the well, during the hottest part of the day, but she is undoubtedly was mentally, emotionally, and spiritually exhausted as well.
    - She's probably exhausted from people due to the fact that she intentionally goes out to this well at a time when there would be no one else around on most days
    - She's exhausted from the mistake after mistake that she has made in her life and wants to limit the number of times that she is confronted by her mistakes
- She does what most of us do whenever we are exhausted by life, she develops her own system for how she feels like she can quench the exhaustion of life herself

- She tries to isolate herself from community. because she is sick of the comments and unsolicited advice from others
- As we continue to break down her interaction with Jesus, we can see in her tone that she has developed and hard shell around herself and a defensiveness about her
- And we'll see that she has turned to relationship after relationship trying to find some sort of security and affirmation that has alluded her, her entire life
- And when she doesn't find what she's looking for in one relationship, she just takes matters into her own hands and tries to find it in the next one
- Not only does Jesus know the exhaustion that the lady is facing in her life, He knows the solution
  - So He begins to talk to her about this "Living Water." Because this is what Jesus does:

## **- JESUS QUENCHES THE THIRST OF LIFE**

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- Jesus knows better than anyone else, how we as human beings try to quench our internal thirst with so many external things.
  - I firmly believe with all that I am, that every human being is born with a God-size hole in our lives.
- We have this constant thirst for more, for significance, for purpose...because we know that there is something that we are missing, but we are prone to try to determine for ourselves what will be the thing that will quench that thirst in our lives.
- *We want to make the decision*
  - So we develop these great dreams and goals (which are not bad things in and of themselves) but they can become detrimental if try to use them for our ultimate fulfillment and satisfaction, trying to fill the hole in our lives that only our creator can fill.
- In the early 2000's there was a famous American writer named David Foster Wallace who had made it to the top of his profession.

He was an award winning- best selling postmodern novelist known for his boundary pushing storytelling. He was not a religious man in the least, but in 2005, he gave a commencement speech at Kenyon College in which He said: ***“Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. And the compelling reason for maybe choosing some sort of god...to worship...is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive. If you worship money and things, if they are where you tap real meaning in life, then you will never have enough, never feel like you have enough. It’s the truth. Worship your own body and beauty and sexual allure, and you will always feel ugly. And when time and age start showing, you will die a million deaths...Worship power, and you will end up feeling weak and afraid, and you will need ever more power over others to numb you to your own fear. Worship your intellect, being seen as smart, you will end up feeling***

***stupid, a fraud, always on the verge of being found out. Look, the insidious thing about these forms of worship is not that they are evil or sinful; it is that they're unconscious. They are default settings.***

- Even though David Foster Wallace understood this profound truth about the human condition, he was still never able to find what he was looking for to quench the thirst of his life and 3 years after giving that address, he took his own life with his last words being, "Something will eat you alive."
  - *We are all looking for something, we are all searching for something more. And Jesus wants this lady at the well and all of us to know that if we try to quench the thirst of life with anything other than Him, we will get eaten alive.*
- Trying to quench the exhaustion of our souls will all of these external things like money, success, relationships, status, and human praise is like being so physically exhausted

and instead of taking a drink of water to quench our thirst we just splash it on our face instead.

- Jesus says in verse 14, that the Living Water that He provides is not something that He offers us to sip, but rather He wants to put the well inside of you that will give you unending *source of satisfaction for your soul.*
- However, Jesus is talking about this somewhat cryptically and this lady is not picking up what He is laying down, and in verse 15, ***The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered Him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." - John 4:15-18 (ESV)***

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- Now, this seems like a strange shift in the conversation. Jesus is telling her about the Living Water that He offers and then she asks for it, and then He just brings up out of nowhere all of her deepest, darkest baggage
- However, what we need to understand is that Jesus is not trying to be mean, or cruel, or shame this woman. Jesus didn't start off this interaction so loving and caring just to drop the hammer now and tell her how bad she is, that's inconsistent with His character
  - All Jesus is doing here, is pointing her toward her need for the Living Water the He provides.
- He's proving to her, that there has been something within her that she has been trying to quench for so many years through so many relationships
  - Dr Tim Keller describes this as is if, *"He's nudging her ,saying, 'If you want to understand the nature of this Living Water I offer, you need to first understand how you've been seeking it in your own life."*
- Furthermore, we cannot have a healthy working knowledge of the love, grace, and mercy that God offers without confronting our sin.
  - Sin, a word that is becoming more and more taboo the longer time goes on because nobody wants to be confronted with their faults or their failures
  - And to be fair, the words sin and sinner have unfortunately been used to marginalize people by those who have a unbiblical view of sin and wrongly think that they themselves are above it or have beat sin somehow
- However, I know of 2 prevalent ways, not the only ways, but 2 prevalent ways that sin rears its ugly head
  - *And its when we have a blatant disregard for morals, and when we think that our morals can save us*



- How often, can the believer fall for the lie that they can achieve a greater standing with God based on how clean they live their life?
  - In turn, allowing ourselves to think that because we have been so good, God owes us now
  - *Tread carefully, God owe's no man anything, and He is bound by no debt*
- Therefore we need a regular confrontation with the sin that exists in our own lives so that we can have a greater appreciation for His Grace and the Living Water He provides.
- There is not a human being on the planet, there is not a Christian on the planet, that does not still struggle with sin.
- Sin, is essentially anything we allow to take the place of God in our lives.
  - That's why we need to continually check ourselves, and when we recognize the areas of our lives where sin exists, we repent.
- We don't sit around and feel sorry for ourselves, beat ourselves over the head for how bad we are, but rather we allow ourselves to taken back in awe, that a Holy God would still choose to love and care for me.
  - I can't fix myself, all I can do is fix my eyes on Him and allow my life to be a response to who He is.
- However, more often than not, when we are confronted with our sin, we, like this woman, would like to change the topic of conversation as quick as we can.
- ***The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet." -John 4:19 (ESV)***
  - And then she does something that a lot of us do, whenever we are confronted with our sin...she brings up a theological debate
  - So many people would rather argue their opinion than actually find truth

- *I think social media in the 2020's has proven that...*

- Too often we can have these types of theological debates, and all they do is distract from what actually needs to be addressed
- Now Jesus, is brilliant, because He entertains her theological debate, He doesn't make her feel stupid, but He redirects her back to what's most important
- ***“Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but You say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father... But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship***

***Him must worship in spirit and truth.” -John 4:20-24 (ESV)***

- What Jesus is telling this woman is completely radical and mind blowing
- *First He's telling her that God's presence is not bound to a place of Worship*
  - God has always been a mobile God: Cloud/Fire/Tent/Mountains/Ark of the Covenant
  - He didn't even want a Temple to house His Presence
- *Second, He's saying that God is Seeking Worshippers*
  - This is completely counter religious, because every single religion is about man seeking a god to worship
  - But what Jesus says separates Him from any type of religion ever known to mankind because every religion is about what man can do in order to get to their god, but Jesus is God come to get you.

- He sought us out, and the only reason we worship Him today is because He found us when we couldn't find Him
- This is all too much for the woman to wrap her mind around, so she just says in verse 25...
- ***The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ). When He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I Who speak to you am He." -John 4:25-26***
- I love the way Eugene Peterson paraphrases this verse when he says, ***"I am He," said Jesus. "You don't have to wait any longer or look any further."***
  - Isn't that beautiful?? How many people are searching for significance, searching for a place to belong, searching for something to quench the exhaustion of life, and the message of Jesus is that you don't have to wait and longer or look any further, everything you have been searching for is found in Him
  - And once we allow Him to come into our lives, and once the thirst in our souls is quenched, that is not an excuse to become complacent.
- ***Just then His disciples came back. They marveled that He was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, "Come, see a Man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" They went out of the town and were coming to Him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But He said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work." -John 4:27-34 (ESV)***

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- Have you ever had those moments where you did something but don't remember doing it? Like you could leave the house, get 5 minutes down the road, and think to yourself, "Did I lock the door?" And if you turn around to go check, and realize you actually did lock the door, it drives you crazy!
- I don't know about you, but I don't know how many times I can't remember if I washed my hair or not in the shower.
- Another example: How often we can be driving and not remember it? You know, you could be driving to work and find yourself in the parking lot, and not remember the last 20 minutes of driving! Those moments are terrifying to me, because here I am, driving a huge metal machine that weighs thousands of pounds, moving at a rapid pace, and at one false movement could end a human life and I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER OPERATING IT!!
- But this just goes to show the human condition that we can be *looking but not really seeing*.

*we can be awake but not actually aware, we can be alive but not actually living...*

- And we can also be just like these disciples where we're following Jesus we feel like we're doing everything we're supposed to be doing but we completely miss what He is actually doing.
  - *Passing the Samaritan Woman*
- Then they come back and see Jesus in the middle of arguably the most controversial situation that He has ever put Himself in throughout His life and ministry
- This is so confusing to these disciples because Jesus is crossing wayyy too many barriers here
  - Racial Barrier
  - Cultural Barrier
  - Gender Barrier
  - Social Barrier
  - Religious Barrier

- These guys are pumped about following Jesus and serving Him, but they are so blinded by the barriers that they have grown up with that they can't see what Jesus is actually trying to do here
  - They're very confused, but no one says anything, they just stand there in this awkward silence
- And this woman, who is going through this emotional rollercoaster of Jesus just revealing His Messiahship to her, she probably has so many questions, but she now has 12 sets of judgmental Jewish male eyes staring at her... the situation just gets a little too uncomfortable so she leaves her water pot and goes back into town
- But praise God that didn't keep her from sharing her encounter with the Savior to all of the people that she normally tries to avoid
- Because at the end of the chapter we see the other Samaritans say to this woman, ***"They said to the woman, "It is no longer because***

***of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."***

***-John 4:42 (ESV)***

- Praise God that the short sightedness of the disciples in this moment didn't quench the Spirit in that moment
  - Because that won't always be the case
- And I pray, church, that we would never be the type of community, that if someone, who has been so exhausted by life, comes into one of our services seeking a glimpse of the Living Water that Jesus provides, I pray that we would never be those that would send those judgmental stares as if to say, "What are you doing here?"
  - *We should all humbly ask ourselves, "Do we see people as interruptions or opportunities?"*
  - Furthermore, if we ever do fall into seeing people as interruptions, I pray that God

would deal with our hearts, the way that He dealt with the hearts of His disciples

- The barriers that they had built up in their own hearts, caused this uncomfortable scene, but they were too uncomfortable themselves to talk about it, so they try to change the subject and they say, “Come on Jesus! Eat! We got you some Chic Fil A!”
  - They know like we in the south definitely know, that food is an excellent subject changer!
- But Jesus isn’t going to let them off that easy. He says, “I got food that you don’t know about”
  - Then they are really confused, they’re whispering to themselves, “Where did He get food? Did that lady give Him food? We saw Him turn water into wine, did turn this water into waffle fries??”

- ***Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.” -John 4:34 (ESV)***

## - **JESUS SATISFIES THE HUNGER OF OUR SOUL**

- He talks of a food that satisfies like the living water he told the woman about. To do the will of God. When you are doing what God has anointed and appointed you to do, it will literally energize your body. What will fulfill the Christian life more than anything else, is when you know that you are in the Will of God and you are seeing Him at work.
- In John chapter 6 verse 25, Jesus says, ***“I Am the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.” -John 6:35***
- And then He says in verse 40, ***“For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life.” -John 6:40 (ESV)***

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- The way that hunger is satisfied in the Christian life is when we are using everything that we have to show people Jesus in the hopes that it will result in their eternal life.
  - There is nothing more important on this side of eternity than using whatever platform God has given you to show people the Son.
    - *Petty theological debates are useless*
    - *Worship style isn't that important*
    - *Our opinions are secondary*
- What matters more than anything else, is that people are dying every single day who do not know the Hope of Eternal Salvation that Jesus died in order to give us, and the foundation of our existence should be centered around seeing people go from death to life in the Love of Jesus
- Unfortunately, I believe that we have way too many "Hangry" Christians
  - Are you familiar with the term hangry? If you're not, get married and let your wife be

two hours late to dinner and you'll see what I'm talking about

- But it's baffling to many, that there are Christians who supposedly have this unending joy and satisfaction found in Jesus but yet seem to be some of the most bitter, upset, angry people that are no fun whatsoever to be around
  - I think that's because they're hangry
  - Because whenever we come into a life with Jesus, we are born into a new system, and Jesus says that the food that fulfills us, satisfies us, and energizes us is to do the Will of the Father
- As we read, Jesus says that the Will of the Father is for people to see Jesus, believe in Him, and come to eternal life.
- However, it's easy for the believer to be sidetracked from that
- Instead of making the main goal of our lives to see people come to Jesus, we'll focus more on

the way we think things are supposed to be done on a Sunday morning,

- Instead of reaching the lost, we'll focus on other believers who don't believe the way that we believe: Predestination/End Times/Tongues
  - We'll scrutinize every little detail of each other's lives, and become sidetracked from what's actually most important because we're more concerned with our opinions and our barriers than the will of God.
- I absolutely love the fact, that the first time John shows us Jesus taking His disciples out on a ministry trip, He takes them to the place that they would have been the most uncomfortable
- They thought that just going into Samaria was the hard part...no that was just a warmup
- ***Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift***

***up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest." -John 4:35 (ESV)***

- Some scholars speculate that whenever Jesus told them to lift up their eyes, and as He points, they look up over the horizon to see the flock of Samaritans that are coming to see Him because of what the woman had told them.
    - Jesus says, THIS is your harvest
    - THIS is My Father's Will
    - THE TIME IS NOW
- And if I was one of the disciples, I probably would have said, "These people? Really? They don't believe the way we believe! They aren't our people!
- Actually, from everything I've heard, they are BAD people Jesus! Even the woman you were talking to Jesus, you know you need to be careful around girls like THAT!"



- But Jesus knows all of these barriers that they have had built up in their lives...but for our last point:

### - **JESUS BREAKS DOWN BARRIERS**

- He's already started breaking down the gender barriers showing them that Jesus can and will use women just as much as men to bring people to Him
- He's breaking down the racial barriers by forcing them to interact with these Samaritans and show them first hand that they were made in the image of God just like they were
- He's breaking down the cultural barriers by making them stay there a few days so they see that it's ok that some people live differently than they do
- He's breaking down the social barriers by showing that no matter what struggles, what sins, or what kind of past someone has the Gospel is greater and His Grace is available

- And He's breaking down the religious barrier, showing that your good deeds and your own personal track record at church means nothing if you're not using your life to bring people to Christ
  - Jesus wants us to get our eyes off ourselves, fix our eyes on Him, so that He can show you the harvest
- Oh and I pray, that when we would see the harvest, we would be uncomfortable and go anyway
- I pray that the Lord would broaden our horizons and break down the barriers in our lives
  - Matthew says in his Gospel account:
- ***And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were***

***harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” -Matthew 9:35-38 (ESV)***

- The saddest thing about that verse is that it still rings true today
- The harvest is still plentiful, and we have an XYZ church on every street corner in the south, and yet the laborers are still few
  - Why? Because we have too many barriers
  - *Our Preferences, Our Comfortably, Our Opinions*
- The American Church has become way too consumeristic. We want to come in, get a good word on a Sunday, feel good about ourselves for coming, but if what happens in this room stays in this room it doesn't matter.

- You know the real ministry doesn't happen in this building on a Sunday morning. This is just supposed to be a launching pad for the real ministry that happens in your communities, in your workplace, and in your home
- What happens here means nothing if we don't if we don't see the harvest and become those laborers Jesus had His guys praying for .
- Jesus tells them, ***“Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” -John 4:36-38 (ESV)***
- Jesus is saying, “You may not have put the prayer and ministry into this, but God is working and you GET to be a part of it.”

- I heard a quote one time that said, "No ministry is a result of one generation"
- You see, there had been judges and prophets and ancestors who were praying that the Messiah would come to these Samaritans, that they would be a radically changed people. And the time had come to answer all of those prayers
- The disciples were walking in on something, they didn't lay the ground work, but they were gonna get to see God move.
- I remember years back I was visiting the Billy Graham Library, and under a picture of one of his great revivals read a quote that said: ***"As a servant of Jesus Christ, I must say again and again how unworthy I felt to minister to the people of these lands. I was reaping where I did not sow, and it was a humbling experience. Any honor or credit for what has happened through this ministry belongs***

***only to The Lord Jesus Christ, whom I serve."***

- Billy Graham understood that he had walked in on something. God had been laying a groundwork for generations before him, sowing those spiritual seeds, and Billy was reaping what he didn't sow.
- In the same way, Hope Hickory, I believe we're walking in on something!
  - There's a reason God put this specific group of people together in this specific place.
  - We're entering into where we have not Labored
  - There have been preachers and teachers, aunt and uncles, parents, grandparents, and great grandparents who have labored over our city
  - Praying that this would be a city full of believers that wouldn't be people caught up

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in mundane traditions and going through the motions, but would be a city that Loved God

- If we would lift up our eyes and see the harvest for what it is, I believe we would see a movement that those before us have prayed for
  - This will happen if we allow Gospel break down the barriers in our lives and set the tone for how we navigate this world
  - Because when the Gospel sets the tone, I realize that I was a part of that harvest, God broke down ever single barrier to get to Me!
  - I couldn't have been more different than Him! I was going through life, searching for some sort of significance, some sort of belonging, trying to find a way to quench the thirst that the exhaustion of life brought upon Me! And He knew everything I ever did, but yet He still saved me, forgave me, and welcomed me into His Kingdom!
- So why in the world would I keep this to myself?? Why in the world would I think that I deserved this more than anyone else? Why in the world would I allow the self made barriers to keep me from seeing those who needs this just as much as I do
  - This is why church is so important, because we need days like today where we can be reminded that the harvest is what's most important