



The Good News

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“Eating” on Obedience

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There are plenty of parallels between spiritual and physical elements that we can use to help us be better servants of God. In fact, Jesus relied on these parallels in teaching the people regarding the nature of the kingdom of God in the use of parables. From the parable of the sower to the parable of the fig tree, Jesus introduced the people to a line of thought that took ordinary, everyday concepts and turned them into spiritual teaching tools. I believe that we can all observe that Jesus, in all His godly wisdom, was extremely successful in teaching people using these tools. We can see how useful it can be to utilize these same teaching tools to help our friends and loved ones come to a better knowledge of spiritual matters. Whether we use the parables that Jesus taught or utilize more modern examples of the same principles, it will help us in our efforts to teach other people. There is one example of these parables that we want to consider today. The teaching that Jesus gives is rudimentary in principle, yet comprehensive in application. His point revolves around “eating” on obedience.

“Eating” on obedience: In **John 4:1-30** we have the account of Jesus and His dialogue with the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well. The account picks up once again in **4:39-42**. Wedged in verses **31-38** is a small discourse between Jesus and His disciples. After the woman had left Jesus to go seek out the men of the city, Jesus’ disciples implore Him to eat some food. Jesus replies “I have food to eat of which you do not know.” The disciples were confused, thinking that perhaps someone else had given Him some food and they had not noticed. Jesus goes on to explain Himself: “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.” He then proceeds to talk about the “harvest” that is ready.

Jesus took the opportunity to teach a spiritual lesson by using a physical example. He says that His food, that which sustains Him, is to do God’s will. It bears an interesting application for us today as we seek to serve God and teach others to do the same: Are we “feasting” on our service to God? We often talk about “feasting” on the word of God as a means of growing and maturing, yet this is not what Jesus is talking about. He is pointing out that serving God in all things and doing His will is **the** means of providing spiritual sustenance to our souls. In short, by serving God we have spiritual life, and of course, we learn **how** to serve God by “feasting” on His word. This is easily linked to Jesus’ words in **Matt. 7:21** when Jesus says: “Not everyone who says to me ‘Lord, Lord’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.” Those who will enter the kingdom are those who “feasted” on serving the Lord with their whole mind, heart, and soul.

As we sit and consider the words of Jesus, let us be encouraged to “eat” on obeying God in all things, knowing it sustains us spiritually.