

HARVEST TIME

The Harvest is Huge, but the Laborers are Few

Matthew 9:35-38

Jesus' Mission

35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

- Jesus' mission was to minister
- Jesus' "method" of ministry was to go, Jesus *went* after lost people
- There was no place Jesus would not minister
- He was not waiting for people to come to Him, Jesus went to the people
Luke 19:10 (KJV) For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.
- The unchurched don't know to come the church, we have to pursue them
Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: [20] Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.
- Jesus did not limit Himself to His hometown, but He kept moving from village to village, town to town, to city to city
- How much more should we too go *everywhere* with the message of Jesus Christ
- Jesus took advantage of every opening or opportunity
- Wherever Jesus went, He *met* the needs of people
- He *preached* – He proclaimed the good news of the King, God Himself. He brought the message of salvation
- He *taught* – He rooted and grounded everyone in the Word of God
- He *healed* – He met the physical, mental, and emotional needs of those who were suffering and hurting. **Acts 10:38-39 (KJV) How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. [39] And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:**
- The objective of Jesus' ministry was to leave people in a better condition than when He found them
- People should know we've passed their way with the ministry of Jesus
- Every believer is to preach, teach, and heal

The Power of Compassion

[36] But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

- Jesus saw the multitudes of people following Him
- Jesus was moved with compassion; Jesus had pity and sympathy for them

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- Jesus saw their *physical* needs; their suffering, their pain, hunger etc.
- Jesus saw their *spiritual* needs; they were lost, they were dead to God, their lives had no meaning, purpose, or significance
- Jesus saw *fainting* people; people ready to collapse
- Life had worn them out; they were about to give up
- Jesus saw *scattered* people; they had no direction in life
- They were wandering from place to place, from belief to belief, from desire to desire
- Jesus saw the people as *sheep* without a *shepherd*
- The people had no guidance, direction or leadership
- If they had leaders, it was the wrong leader; leaders that fleeced them for their own benefit instead of guiding, directing, and nurturing them
- Today, we come across many people who are broken, struggling, addicted, depressed, lonely, and going through many types of hardships
- As believers, we should reflect the compassion of Jesus, caring about their souls and their suffering
- *How can we develop this kind of compassion?*
- We must learn to see people through the eyes of Jesus, realizing they lost and helpless with Him

The Harvest is Plenteous

[37] Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few

- Jesus saw the needs of the people and God gave Him a *vision* of a great harvest
- Jesus' disciples did not see the harvest and needed help to see it
- Jesus wants us to see great harvest; ***The harvest truly is plenteous***
 - The harvest is plentiful, there is no shortage of lost people
 - People are everywhere fainting, weary, wandering, scattered, like sheep without a shepherd
 - Everywhere we go, we will see lost people
- The harvest needs workers, ***but the labourers are few***
 - Jesus needs people; men, women, boys, and girls
 - The shortage was not in *the harvest*, but in *the laborers* for the harvest
 - Without laborers the harvest will remain in the fields
 - Laborers are desperately needed
 - We as believers ***must*** mobilize with a sense of urgency
 - Why aren't there more laborers?
- We must ask ourselves, "Am I the laborer is calling for"?
- The Lord is calling us to share our faith with others, serve those in need, disciple new believers

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The Need for Laborers

[38] Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

- Jesus has commanded us to pray for laborers **Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest**
 - Pray that God will raise up laborers to reach this generation
 - If there are going to be more laborers and a great harvest it requires God's people to ask for it
 - Pray for *ourselves* to be one of the laborers
 - Reaching the lost not a one man-show, but a team effort.
- Jesus says, we need laborers *now*, **that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.**
 - Jesus is saying the laborers need to be *sent forth* to reap the harvest *now*
 - God is the Lord of the Harvest and He knows that *now* is harvest time **John 15:1 (KJV) I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.**
 - We are laborers together with God **1 Corinthians 3:9 (KJV) 9 "For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ..."**
 - We are not harvesting souls for us, but for God
 - We **can** reap this harvest and we **shall** reap this harvest!
 - We must pray with an ear open to hear the Lord tell us, "You go into the harvest!"

The Urgency of the Mission

[37] Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few

- Jesus' words emphasize urgency
- The harvest will not last forever
- If we delay, souls may be lost, and opportunities to share the gospel may pass us by
- All around us are opportunities for individual believers and the church to minister to lost souls
- We must live with a sense of urgency in reaching the lost
- We are to take advantage of the time we have now and not wait **John 9:4 (KJV) 4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.**
- Will you be the laborer Jesus is talking about?