

SUMMER • AUGUST 3, 2020

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

A weekly study to strengthen families

EYES ON THE HARVEST

BY PASTOR GARDNER

Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. MATTHEW 9:37-28

Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest. LUKE 10:2

Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. JOHN 4:35

The church body as a whole has been challenged by these very unprecedented times during Covid-19. It has forced the body of believers into a quarantined mindset with a very inward focus. It is no surprise that the Lord has impressed the ministry to encourage the church body to focus outwardly towards the harvest: to lift up our eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

In John, Chapter 4, we read a profound lesson by Jesus on reaching the harvest. It was unprecedented for Jews to visit Samaria. There were seven hundred years of history of hatred towards one another. So much hatred that they would go several miles out of their way to avoid their feet touching the Samaritan dust. Jesus, a Jew, said he must go through Samaria, which brought him to a lady at a well in the city of Cipa. She had a terrible past, and undoubtedly brought with it a shame, yet Jesus ministered unto her. She received the revelation of Christ and shared her testimony with the men of Samaria. This testimony created a hunger and thirst inside of them to meet Jesus. The encounter they had with Jesus gave them a revelation that He was, indeed, the Messiah, and they would, later on, have a greater understanding that He was the Savior of the world.

In Jesus' days, they would commonly say, "There are four months, and then comes the harvest." Jesus countered this inward mindset by telling his disciples to "lift up their eyes and look unto the fields; for they are white already to harvest." Jesus wanted his disciples to see that the time for the harvest was now, and not to procrastinate or view the harvest as a future, down the road event.

It's easy for us during these unprecedented times to also get an inward mindset and think of the harvest as a future event. The Lord of the harvest wants us to lift up our eyes from inward to an outward focus, and then we will see that the harvest isn't down the road; it's right now, and it's ripe and ready to harvest!

Go ye...into the harvest!

Application

Every believer has been commissioned to be a witness to a lost world. There are many hungry and thirsty people in our city who will respond once we introduce them to Jesus. It doesn't matter what their background may be, or how messed up their lives are, or how successful they seem; they all need to know Jesus loves them and died for them. We must not look on the outward but know that on the inside their soul is crying out, "Save me, a lost soul." Will you go? Will you share your testimony? Will you tell them Jesus loves them? If not you, who will?

Discussion

1. What made Jesus go through Samaria?
2. What was the result of Jesus going through Samaria?
3. What can we do as a family to win the lost?
4. What could we do individually to focus on the harvest?
5. What two or three people come to mind with whom to share the gospel?

Prayer Focus

Pray that God's people will lift their eyes and look unto the harvest.

Pray that God's people will be witnesses to friends, family, and co-workers.

Pray for God to bring up in your spirit someone you can approach to share your testimony.