

Friend Day 2

Lesson 2

Scattered Sheep

I. Review: Where to Look or Where to Focus in 2024 (and for the rest of your life).

A.1. Look to Jesus

B.2. Look up!

C.3. Look to yourselves.

D.4. Look upon the harvest.

II. Review: Our primary focus for 2024 is the harvest. We are to place our focus on Soul Winning and Church Growth this year. So, as I continue to introduce this vision to you, let's review Four Irrefutable Facts about the Harvest that Jesus gave us.

A. Fact 1: The harvest is now.

1. (John 4:35 NKJV) ³⁵*"Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!"*

B. Fact 2: The harvest is ripe.

1. (John 4:35b NKJV) *Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!"*

C. Fact 3: The harvest is plentiful.

1. (Matt. 9:37 NKJV) ³⁷*Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few."*

D. Fact 4: The harvest is weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

1. (Matt. 9:35-38 NKJV) ³⁵*Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. ³⁶But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. ³⁷Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. ³⁸Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."*

III. What are scattered sheep like?

A. The Bible gives a sevenfold description of scattered sheep in (Ezek. 34:5-16

NKJV) ⁵So they were scattered because there was no shepherd; and they became food for all the beasts of the field when they were scattered. ⁶My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and on every high hill; yes, My flock was scattered over the whole face of the earth, and no one was seeking or searching for them." ⁷'Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: ⁸"As I live," says the Lord GOD, "surely because My flock became a prey, and My flock became food for every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, nor did My shepherds search for My flock, but the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock"—⁹therefore, O shepherds, hear the word of the Lord! ¹⁰Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require My flock at their hand; I will cause them to cease feeding the sheep, and the shepherds shall feed themselves no more; for I will deliver My flock from their mouths, that they may no longer be food for them." ¹¹'For thus says the Lord GOD: "Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land; I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed them in good pasture, and their fold shall be on the high mountains of Israel. There they shall lie down in a good fold and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I will feed My flock, and I will make them lie down," says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶"I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick; but I will destroy the fat and the strong, and feed them in judgment."

1. Scattered sheep have no spiritual direction. (verse 6a) ⁶My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and on every high hill...

2. Scattered sheep are isolated and lonely. (verse 6b) ...yes, My flock was scattered over the whole face of the earth, and no one was seeking or searching for them."

3. Scattered sheep are depressed and discouraged. (verse 12b) ... I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day.

4. Scattered sheep feel driven away. (verse 16a) ¹⁶"I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away..."

5. Scattered sheep are broken and sick. (verse 16b) ...*bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick...*

6. Scattered sheep are spiritually malnourished. (verse 14a) ¹⁴*I will feed them in good pasture...*

7. Scattered sheep are prey for demonic oppression. (verse 5b) ...*and they became food for all the beasts of the field when they were scattered.*

B. Our unsaved friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors are like scattered sheep. They have 7 heartfelt needs.

1. They need real, true spiritual direction in their lives.

2. They need to be searched for and sought out from their isolation and loneliness.

3. They need encouragement because they are discouraged and depressed.

4. They need acceptance because they feel driven away.

5. They need healing because they are broken and sick.

6. They need the Word of God because they are spiritually malnourished.

7. They need deliverance because they have been in bondage to demonic oppression.

C. If we can minister to their heartfelt needs, then there is a good chance that they will be open to receiving further ministry as we share the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ.

IV. Review: The Lord has put on my heart as pastor to lead the church in several soul winning strategies this year. These strategies are team efforts. Let's review our first 2 strategies for the year.

A. Friend Day Campaign 1/7-3/24 (11 Weeks) There is a harvest waiting for this church among our friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors.

1. Prepare the church and equip the members for **Stairstep Evangelism**. You are not going to try to lead them to a decision to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. Rather, you are going to prepare them to be your guest on Friendship Sunday by doing taking certain steps that will cause them to trust you and want to be your guest on that day. I am going to show you how to increase your influence in their lives. We are going to show them love and hospitality and I will present the plan of salvation to them in my sermon. Many of them will get saved because you have stair stepped them to Jesus.

2. **Friend Day Follow Up and Baptisms** 4 weeks following. (3/24-4/21) All of us will be involved in that.

3. We are going to restructure the Sunday School hour to accommodate discipling these new believers.

B. Resurrection Sunday San Jacinto Outreach

1. Give free hams to the first 100 guests that come.

C. Two big attendance Sunday's back-to-back targeting 2 different groups of people.

D. The San Jacinto converts will flow into the Friend Day Follow Up Plan.

E. We should have 100 plus in attendance on both Sundays.

F. We could see 50 or more salvations.

V. You may be thinking, "I don't feel qualified to minister to my friends." So, what must you have to be qualified?

A1. For you to reach your friend for Jesus Christ you must first know Jesus yourself. (1 John 5:12, 13 NKJV) *¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.*

1. When you have been born again and have a personal realization of the life and love of Jesus in your heart, you will want to share that life and love with your friends.

B2. You must yield yourself to God. (Rom. 6:13 NKJV) *¹³ And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.*

1. If you would win your friends to Jesus Christ, you must first make and active dedication of your life to Christ. You can do that in prayer every day.

C3. You must realize that your friends outside of Christ are lost.

1. You will not try to win your friends to Christ unless you realize they are lost.

2. (1 John 5:12 NKJV) *¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

D4. You must realize that Friendship Evangelism is Biblical.

1. When Cornelius was seeking salvation, the Bible describes it like this. (Acts 10:24 NKJV) *²⁴ And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends.*

B. Look what Cornelius told Peter. (Acts 10:33 NKJV) *³³ So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present*

before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God."

C. Cornelius brought his family and friends to hear the Gospel message. This is the same as inviting people to church.

VI. Review: Last week I gave you the first step in this process.

A. I am asking each of you to go to the Lord in prayer and ask him, "Who are the friends that you want me to minister to?" and I want you to write down 5 names and begin to pray for them. Write those 5 names down and bring the list to church next week. Make two copies. One for yourself to keep and one for the Pastor's Prayer Circle to begin to pray for.

B. Focus on your unsaved friends and relatives or some believer who is out of fellowship and needs to be restored. Let's not try to get other people to leave their churches and come over here.

VII. Friend Day Lesson 2 Homework

A. Pray over these four points daily.

- 1. Look to Jesus**
- 2. Look Up.**
- 3. Look to Yourself.**
- 4. Look at the Harvest.**

B. Ask God to build confidence and assurance in your life that you are qualified to minister to your friends.

C. Continue to pray for your friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors. Ask God to show you what characteristics of scattered sheep they have.

D. Ask God to show you how to begin to encourage them and how to meet some of their 7 heartfelt needs.

E. Keep working on memorizing these four verses. The Romans Road of Salvation

1. Rom. 3:23 NKJV Man's Need

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

2. Rom. 6:23 NKJV Sin's Penalty

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. Rom. 5:8 NKJV God's Provision

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

4. Rom. 10:9 NKJV Man's Response

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

F. Continue to write down names of people that God brings to your mind to invite to Friendship Sunday. Ask the Lord, "Who are the friends that you want me to minister to?" Write down 5 names and begin to pray for them. Write those 5 names down and bring the list to church next week. Make two copies. One for yourself to keep and one for the Pastor's Prayer Circle to begin to pray for.

G. If you cannot think of a friend, then ask the Lord to open your eyes to people around you who are demonstrated the signs of a scattered sheep. Ask God to show you how to minister to that person.

Cut along this line and bring the bottom half back to church with you next week.

Focus on your unsaved friends and relatives or some believer who is out of fellowship and needs to be restored.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____