

READY OR NOT? PART TWO 8-2- 2026

July 28, 2026



MATTHEW 9:35-38 NKJV

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. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. They He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the Harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

READY OR NOT?

Most everyone has played or participated in a game of "Hide and Seek". Before the one chosen to find the participants heads out, He/She declares "Ready or Not, Here I come."

READY OR NOT, There is a New Season Coming. Harvest Season is right around the corner. We must Prepare, Persevere, Have Compassion and Pray TODAY, in preparation for the Next Season!

INTRODUCTION

We spend a lot of time preparing for things that may never happen:

1. Vacation
2. Retirement
3. Storms
4. Sporting Events
5. Job Related Tasks

BUT, ARE WE PREPARING FOR THE GREATEST HARVEST OF SOULS?

God has a harvest that is already in the field and if the CHURCH (You and I) are not ready, the Harvest will rot in the field.

Jesus didn't say the harvest MIGHT be plentiful. He said, "The Harvest IS Plentiful."

The Problem is not the lack of Harvest. The Problem today is the Lack of WORKERS who are PREPARED.

Today, God asks us: "READY OR NOT?"

PREPARE

"THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL"

1. Every harvest requires preparation
2. A Farmer:
 - a. Prepares the Soil
 - b. Plants the Seed
 - c. Removes the Weeds
 - d. Cleans the barns
 - e. Condenses the contents of the Silos
 - f. Maintains / Gets His Equipments Ready
 - g. Finds additional Laborers
 - h. All while WAITING FOR THE HARVEST to mature
3. I Peter 3:15 Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts...
4. II Timothy 2:21 - Cleanses himself... Sanctified...
5. James 4:8 - Cleanse yourself...
6. Exodus 19:11 - Let them be ready...
7. James 4:8 - Cleanse your hands, purify your hearts...

8. God always has a season/time of preparation before sending His people into the NEXT SEASON!

9.** GOD ISN'T LOOKING FOR PERFECT PEOPLE. HE'S LOOKING FOR PREPARED PEOPLE!!**

PERSEVERE

1. THE HARVEST doesn't come overnight.
2. Farmers understand Seasons
 - a. Planting Season
 - b. Watering Season
 - c. Waiting Season
 - d. Harvest Season
3. Too many tap out "Quit" before the Harvest Season.
4. JESUS NEVER PROMISED EASY. HE PROMISED FRUITFUL!
5. Persever!
 - a. Continue Praying
 - b. Continue Serving
 - c. Continue Inviting
 - d. Continue Teaching
 - e. Continue Preaching
 - f. Continue Singing
 - g. Continue Loving
 - h. Continue believing
6. Breakthrough often comes just after the HARDEST TESTS/TRIALS. Push through the Pain, Discouragement, Guilt, Shame... Breakthrough IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!
7. TRUST THE PROCESS!! - Don't Give Up!! Don't Give Up!! NEVER GIVE UP!!
 - a. Rest if needed, but Don't Stop
 - b. Move to the sideline to get a breath, but Don't Check out of the Game!
 - c. Cry, Weep, Question God... Just Don't give up! A New Season is Coming!
8. Biblical Examples:
 - a. Joseph - Pit before the Palace
 - b. David - Cave before the Crown
 - c. Job - Ashes before Restoration
 - d. Hannah - Years of tears before Samuel

- e. Ruth - Death (widowhood) before Redemption
 - f. Esther - Risk before Rescue
 - g. Peter - Failure before Leadership
 - h. Lazarus - Death before Resurrection
 - i. Jesus - Cross before the Crown
9. Modern Examples:
- a. Steve Jobs - Fired from the company he co-founded. Founded Next and helped build Pixar into a powerhouse. Returned to Apple and led the creation of the iMac, iPod, iPhone, and iPad.
 - b. Lost his first animation company. Went bankrupt and was told he “lacked imagination.” Built Disney into one of the World’s most recognized entertainment companies.
 - c. Colonel Sanders - Failed in Business. Struggled Financially. Didn’t start “Making it” until he was 60 years old.
 - d. Michael Jordan - Cut from his high school varsity basketball team. History records Michael as one of the greatest basketball players of all time.
 - e. Oprah Winfrey - difficult childhood. Lost a television job after being told she wasn’t suited for TV
 - f. Truett Cathy - Original restaurant was destroyed by a fire. Faced numerous financial challenges. Refused to open on Sundays. Today, Chick-fil-A is one of the most successful restaurant chains in the world.
 - g. David Green - Nearly lost his company during economic downturns. Carried heavy debt during the early years. Yet, he held onto his Christian values and built one of America’s largest privately held Retail chains.
10. Whether it is Joseph in the Prison or Moses tending sheep. Don’t mistake God’s Preparation for God’s Absence. PERSEVERE! Don’t give up! Don’t Quit!

COMPASSION

1. Is the Church today Compassionate? Do we exemplify the Passion of Jesus?
2. “When He saw the multitudes, He was moved with Compassion.”
3. Everything Jesus did flowed from PASSION. NOT Obligation, NOT duty

4. Compassion as seen through the eyes of Jesus will cause us to see people differently
5. Instead of seeing addicts, homeless, broken families, angry people, difficult coworkers... JESUS SAW SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPHERD!
6. People don't simply need a Church today - they need a SHEPHERD!
7. Many will forget our sermons. The worship songs will fade from their lips. The weekly news will be tossed aside. BUT THEY RARELY FORGET COMPASSION! A hurting world needs a Church with COMPASSION!

PRAY

1. "Pray the Lord of the Harvest"
2. Jesus didn't first say GO! He said to PRAY!
3. PRAYER:
 - a. Prepares us
 - b. Opens hearts
 - c. Brings in Workers
 - d. Aligns us with God's mission
4. Pray for:
 - a. Laborers
 - b. Boldness
 - c. Open Doors
 - d. Divine Appointments
 - e. The Lost by Name
 - f. The FAVOR of God

CHALLENGE

1. The harvest is still plentiful, The need is still urgent. The invitation is still open...
2. The Question remains... WILL YOU...
 - a. PREPARE your heart?
 - b. PERSEVERE when it gets tough?
 - c. Show COMPASSION like Jesus?
 - d. PRAY for the harvest and BECOME part of the Answer?
3. God is calling ORDINARY BELIEVERS to step into a New Season

of EXTRAORDINARY Harvest!