

Part 6: HANDOUT Preparing for the Harvest Matthew 9:35-38

Today we conclude our series on Preparing for the Harvest...I hope that Your Heart has been Challenged as Much as Mine to Make a Stronger Focus on Reaching the Lost!

- **KEY #1: If You Don't Prepare for the Harvest...You Will Not Have a Harvest!**

God's Plan & Purpose For the Church Is To Reach the Lost & Make Disciples Before He Takes the Church Home at the Rapture. **Acts 1: 8 You Are To Be My Witnesses.**

KEY #2: To Please God...Requires that We Do What Christ Commanded Us to Do...the Great Commission...Reaching the Lost...Making Disciples!

- **We Can Not Do This In Our Own Strength!** It Requires God Being in First Place.

We Learned in Joshua Chapter One that we will only Accomplish the Great Commission when Christ is Sitting on the Throne of our Life. Only then will you move from a Casual, Convenient and Comfortable type of Christianity to Become a totally Devoted Disciple of Jesus Christ! Focused on the Harvest of Souls for Eternity!

Text is Matt 9:35-38. To Be A Successful Harvester Our Text Says There are 3 Things We Must Do:

- **We Must See** What Jesus Sees...**We Must Feel** What Jesus Feels...**We Must Do** What Jesus Did!

#1. We Must See What Jesus Sees: Vs 36: "But" when Jesus "Saw the multitudes. He was moved with Compassion." In other words, he did Not Just See them...He "Saw" Their NEED.

- **He saw** their Lost Condition. **Jesus Saw** them as Sheep, Lost Without a Shepherd.
- **Jesus wants Us to See and Have Compassion for People Who Need the Lord!**

John 4:35 After speaking to the Samaritan woman at the well Jesus said to his disciples. *"Don't you say, it's still four months until harvest? I tell you open your eyes and look at the fields, they are ripe for harvest."*

- The **disciples regarded Samaria as a most unlikely field and Failed to See the Harvest Around Them!**

Jesus did Not Pity the Unsaved and do Nothing...He said Get the Sickle...Go And Harvest! Jesus Did Not See Them Staying in that Lost Situation...He Saw Sinners Being Transformed into Saints.

- He Focused on the Only Solution to their Situation...*He Shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ!*
- **Question: Do We See those Around Us as... "Potential Saints"?**

KEY #3: Wherever there is a Lost Soul...Grace Always Reigns Supreme...And Because of GRACE... There is Hope and There is A "Potential Saint"!

- In John 4 Jesus reminds us that there is Urgency...The Fields are Ripe Unto Harvest...People are Dying and Going to a Christless Eternity Every Day! **There Are Untold Millions...Still UNTOLD.**

#2. We Must Not Only See what Jesus Sees...We Must Feel What Jesus Feels...Compassion!

- "Compassion," is to Feel the Pain of Another Person in Our Own Heart.
- In **Luke 19:41** As Jesus looked over Jerusalem and Wept Over It..."
- *As we look over Traverse City God Wants our hearts to do likewise...Weep for the Lost!*

May We Daily Pray For God To Give Us Broken Hearts that will Weep Over Our Lost Neighbors, Friends and Family....Hearts that Weep Over Our Cities, and America!

POINT>>>Prayer Moves God...Not to Change Gods Mind... Rather, Prayer Produces such a Change In Us that it Render's our Hearts and Our Desires to be Consistent with God's.

#3. We Must Not Only See what Jesus Sees and feel what Jesus feels...We Must Do What Jesus Did!

- Verse 36 says, "He was Moved with Compassion for them..." **That Compassion Led to...Action.**

He asked them to Pray for Laborers. *"Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.(38) **Therefore Pray the Lord of the Harvest to Send out Laborers into His Harvest.**"*

- We Pray Because this is the Lord's Work...What is Impossible with Us is Always Possible with God!

KEY #4: The New Birth is a Miracle...It is based Solely on God's Power.

If We are to Have Any Success in Reaching Others for Christ it will Require that We Fully Understand that it is Not in Our Power and It Is Not Because of Our Knowledge...

Rather it Will be Our Obedience, Seeking God for the Lost, that will Open the Door To Share God's Word...**It's God's Holy Spirit Power Flowing through Us That Reaches a Lost & Dying World.**

Next Jesus Asked them to Go as Laborers.

- It is through Prayer that We will Gain the Compassion We need to See People as they Truly are and...**Through Prayer We Gain God's Heart To Seek the Lost!**

During Christ's Ministry on Earth the Laborers Were "Few" and Sadly, They Still Are Today.

Question: How can We Ask God to Send Someone Else Without First saying, "Lord, Send Me?"

- We See that the Ones who He had Commanded to Pray for Laborers-Became Workers Themselves

KEY #5: It is Impossible to Pray Regularly for the Salvation of a Loved one, a Neighbor, a Friend or a Co-Worker and Not be Moved to Do Something.

Through Prayer Our Hearts Become "One" that God Will Use to Reach His Lost Sheep.

- As We Pray...We Place Ourselves at His Disposal to be One of the Workers in Reaching the Lost.

In Matt 10 Jesus sent them out. They went from house to house, sharing the good news and winning people to Jesus. And that is what Jesus still expects Us to do...

However... Reaping a Harvest among Sinners is Hard Work...It will Cost You Effort and Time!

- **You have to Be Intentional...**Putting Aside Other Things for the Sake of Loving Others into God's Kingdom...**Sadly, Few are Willing to Do That!**

Things that We Should Remember about Harvest time Include:

The Harvest is a Time of Great Opportunity...And Workers are in Great Demand.

Harvest is a time of Tremendous Exertion...The Crops are Not Brought in Without a Great Deal of Work.

The Harvest is a time of Great Intensity and Urgency...When it is time to Harvest Everything Else is Secondary. **BUT...Harvest time Is a Time of Tremendous Joy!**

Psalms 126:6, *"He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing. Bringing his sheaves with him."*

In Closing>>>It is Not Enough to See What Jesus Sees...It is Not Enough to Feel What Jesus Feels...We Must Do What Jesus Does!

"LIFE" POINT: Because People Need the Lord...I Will Make the Harvest My Priority!