

*The Church's Mission*

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**As the church on mission, we must see as Jesus sees to move as Jesus moves.**

Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. <sup>36</sup>Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup>For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' <sup>38</sup>I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." John 4:35-38 ESV

**What does Jesus understand about God's mission that we as the church must see?**

- Jesus understood her real need. (John 4:11-16)
- Jesus understood that He was sent. (John 4:31-34; 20:21)
- Jesus sees the opportunity in front of them. (John 4:35)

*Do you not say...*

- It is possible to be a disciple of Jesus and still fail to see and say what Jesus would say.

*The harvest...*

- The harvest refers to people who are ready to believe and indicates their worth and value.

*Lift up your eyes...*

- If you don't lift up your eyes, you will miss what God is doing right now.

*White for harvest...*

- The signs show us that the harvest is ready now!

**1. Can we recognize the opportunity?**

- Some of the most significant opportunities come disguised as inconveniences.

**2. Can we recognize the urgency?**

- We must understand the hour we are living in now.

**3. Can we recognize our need for one another?**

- The ones who sow and the ones who reap rejoice together.

**Let's Talk About It**

God's mission is His work of restoring people to right relationship with Himself so His glory is reflected in the world. Flowing from the Trinity, the Father sends the Son, the Son gives His life, and the Son sends the Spirit to empower the church. In John 4, Jesus shows us how to live on mission by seeing people as God sees them—valuable and ready—while others are distracted or looking ahead. He reminds us that the harvest is already ripe and happening now. As the church on mission, we are called to lift our eyes, recognize the urgency, and faithfully play our part—whether sowing or reaping—trusting God to bring the growth.

John 4:31-39; Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 9:36-37

**Discussion questions:**

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Read John 4:31-39. What do you notice about how Jesus sees the people around Him compared to how the disciples see them? Is there an adjustment God is asking you to make in the way you see people?
- What would it look like for you to "lift up your eyes" and notice where God is already working in your everyday life? Why is it easy to delay or overlook opportunities for mission, assuming they'll come later?
- How does understanding that people are the "harvest" shape the way you view those who are far from God? How well do you handle interruptions and disruptions to your schedule for the sake of the harvest?
- Who is on your 5x5 card? How might God be inviting you to live with greater urgency for His mission as you look for opportunities to share your faith?

**Take a Step**

- This week, intentionally "lift your eyes" to see where He may already be at work or where there may be an opportunity disguised as an inconvenience.
- Write out your 5x5 card and trust God to take a simple step of obedience with one of them—starting a conversation, offering prayer, or showing intentional care—trusting God to use it for His purposes.

**Here's My Prayer**

God, thank You for inviting me into Your mission. Help me see people the way You see them and not miss what You are doing right in front of me. Give me courage to respond with obedience, whether I am sowing or reaping, and remind me that You are the one who brings the growth. Use my life to reflect Your love and glory. In Jesus' name, amen.