

HARVESTING FOR THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

John 4:27-42

Harvest is a time for joy and thanksgiving. Participating in God's harvest of rescuing people is an even greater joy. Jesus not only leads the Samaritan woman to Himself, but many in her town become part of God's harvest. Today we are to eagerly participate in and anticipate God's ongoing harvest for the Savior.

1.THE PRIORITY OF THE HARVEST: OVERCOMING OBSTACLES TO THE HARVEST – John 4:27-34

- One obstacle to sharing Jesus is assuming they won't be interested. The disciples were "shocked" to see Jesus talking with this woman – verse 27. Why would He do this? But let us not judge who will or will not be interested in Jesus. "Come" is the great invitation of the Gospel – Isaiah 55:1; Matthew 11:28; Revelation 22:17. The Samaritan woman has no regard for the barriers of her sex and reputation. She tells what she knows about Jesus to her village. Her invitation to meet Jesus echoes the "Come and see" of this gospel – John 1:39; 1:46. She is in such a haste that she leaves her water jar by the well. *"Her witness did not have to save them – nor could it. She merely led them to Jesus, and He did the rest. Their salvation reveals Jesus as the Savior of the world...Surely we can risk a little embarrassment or inconvenience to tell people 'I have found the Savior' – come and see!" – Richard Phillips.*
- A second obstacle in sharing Jesus is being too busy or being distracted. The disciples are focused on their food, but Jesus has better food! Jesus' all-consuming passion, zeal, and heart motivation was to do God's will. He came to do everything the Father wanted Him to do – John 8:29. Jesus has a new and better kind of food – Deuteronomy 8:2,3; Matthew 4:2-4.
- *"Some of you good people, who do nothing except go to public meetings, the Bible readings, and prophetic conferences, and other forms of spiritual (indulgence), would be a good deal better Christians if you would look after the poor and needy around you. If you would just tuck up your sleeves for work, and go and tell the gospel to the dying men, you would find your spiritual health mightily restored, for very much of the sickness of Christians comes through their having nothing to do. All feeding and no working gives men spiritual indigestion. Be idle, careless, with nothing to live for, no sinner to pray for, no backslider to lead back to the cross, no trembler to encourage, no little child to tell of a Savior, no grey-headed man to enlighten in the things of God, no object, in fact, to live for; and who wonders if you begin to groan, and to murmur, and to look within, until you are ready to die of despair? - C.H. Spurgeon, 1800's.*

2.THE URGENCY OF THE HARVEST: ENGAGING IN GOD'S HARVEST – John 4:35-42

- Unless people believe in Jesus they remain lost in darkness – John 3:18, 36. There is always urgency because of the shortness and fragility of this life. The disciples lack vision. Jesus challenges them to lift up their eyes. We must look up today to see the vast needs in the world around us. Jesus is the Savior of the world – verse 42; 1 John 4:14. These Samaritans are the first to see that Jesus is not just for the Jews. Their Tahib is really Jesus the Messiah. Jesus is the only Hope of the lost today – John 3:16.
- The fields are white already unto harvest may be referring to the people coming to meet Jesus dressed in white robes! *"There may normally be an interval of, say, four months between final sowing and first harvest, an interval that calls for patience. But see here! Sowing and harvesting*

are now virtually coinciding.” – Murray Harris. Planting and harvesting together points to the Kingdom of Messiah – Amos 9:11-13. God’s spiritual harvest is only in Jesus. May God give us a fresh concern for the lost. May He use us in both sowing seed and in harvesting – 1 Corinthians 3:5-9. We don’t work alone. Entering into others labor may refer to the ministries of John the Baptist, the prophets, and all faithful sowers before us. The final harvest is always the work of the Holy Spirit. This is comforting to the one who is sowing seed. We can sleep at night trusting God to work – Mark 4:26-29.

- Let us participate in God’s harvest – *“The road to hell for others is paved with our good intentions.” – Matt Carter.* May God give us a heart for people, even outside our comfort zone and beyond barriers.
- Let us pray for workers in God’s Harvest field – Matthew 9:35-38. Let us actively pray God would send out workers. Let us also realize that may (and will) include us! God even uses the unlikely to reach others – like this Samaritan woman! The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing – the word of Jesus – verses 41, 42. We are to sow the seed. God brings in the harvest.

Concluding Applications:

- Are you sure you are believing the word of Jesus and are part of His harvest unto eternal life?
- Is your priority doing what God wants?
- Do you have a sense of urgency about getting people to Jesus?
- Are you growing in and sharing God’s Word?