

Now Harvest Requires Now Harvesters

by Randy Mitchell

The last time that I wrote I told of the great conviction I had about the importance of each and every member of the body of Christ being in their assigned place and fulfilling God's plan for their lives. God is mobilizing the body of Christ as never before to respond to the world's great need and His great plan.

I have been meditating on the words of Christ in Matthew 9:35-38 and in John 4:35-38.

Matt 9:35-10:1

35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.

38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

As I read this passage there are several things that stand out to me. As Jesus and His disciples are going through the towns and villages and teaching, preaching and healing, Jesus became aware of the needs among the people that He encountered. It is usually those that are doing the work of the ministry that have the spiritual sensitivity to see the needs around them. Those that stand on the sidelines rarely have the insight to perceive the problem much less the solution.

What moves Christ is not just need; it is not merely human sympathy, not purely an emotional tug at His heart. The response of human love is futile if it responds at all. Human love will respond within the limits of humanity—the results will be limited at best. It is the response of the Love of God that makes much power available bringing real change to the situation. It was the compassion of God that moved the heart of Jesus. This is what the church needs more of today. We need to experience the great compassion of our God to move our hearts to a meaningful response.

He realizes that the people are harassed and helpless because of their poor spiritual condition. That the problem that the people face is not social, nor cultural, rather it is spiritual. In recognizing that the need is great and the need is now, Jesus addresses the solution. The solution is not merely more money, or more people but more prayer as well. Now this does not imply that prayer alone is all that is needed any more than more money or more workers are all that is needed. We are to pray first and foremost that the Lord of the harvest and Lord of the Harvesters will thrust out more laborers. We need to pray for the strategic placement of laborers. Jesus was addressing an immediate need. What He faced was a harvest that was ready for harvest—Now. What he needed was laborers—Now! Not weeks later, not years later, but what I like to call “now harvesters.” Now Harvest requires Now Harvesters. We see this same urgency expressed in John's gospel.

John 4:35-38

35 Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

36 Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.

37 Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true.

38 I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

NIV

Truly today is the day of harvest. We must stop our spiritual procrastination. Today we need harvesters for today's harvest. Tomorrow will demand its laborers. Please read this quote.

“If the church would only awaken to her responsibilities of intercession, we could well evangelize the world in a short time. It is not God's plan that the world be merely evangelized ultimately. It would be evangelized in every generation. There should be a constant gospel witness in every corner of the world so that no sinner need close his eyes in death without hearing the gospel, the good news of salvation through Christ.--T.A. Hegre