

The Harvest Is Plentiful

Promise: Christ's draws us into a harvest of the greatest hope in the world

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Exodus 19:2-8; Ps 100; Romans 5:6-15; Matthew 9:35—10:20
(2nd Sunday after Pentecost (Pr 6), 6/14/20)

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." — v. 37-38

Lead In – Do you ever pause in the midst of all the hustle and bustle and observe the people around you? Are you a people watcher? What do you see when you look upon the faces of people? In general, do you see happiness and contentment? Or do you see impatience, anxiety, boredom, and discontentment? Do you see alienation and loneliness? Just what do you see on so many faces? We are told what Jesus saw when he saw the crowds...

I. Where Is the Harvest Is Plentiful?

- A. In unexpected people and places...
- B. Where sowing and watering has taken place...
- C. Where people are desperate, harassed, helpless...

II. The Laborers Are Few. What Else Is New?

- A. Best to get used to relying on God's strength...
- B. We have no idea of the workers sent...
- C. It is the Lord's harvest, and His sending...

III. Jesus Sends Us, the Recipients of Many Prayers

- A. Interpretive note: descriptive OR prescriptive...
- B. The Apostle full time vocation and ours....
- C. Ability to speak, pray, and show compassion

Parting Shot – If there is one thing the past couple of months has impressed upon me it is this: the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the only hope for the world. Politics is not, even if at times we experience good government. Science and Medicine is not, even though we rejoice in some temporal benefits. But death is still complete with every generation. The same can be said for education, striving for social and judicial justice, entertainment, the list goes on. No, Christ is the only and ultimate hope. Apart from Him the fields lie fallow awaiting the potential of a joyous harvest.

Jn 4:35 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. (the Samaritan woman near the town of Sychar [*soo-khar*])

Paul would start in the synagogues... (cf. Acts 9:20; 13:3, 14; 14:1; 17:1, 10, 17; 18:4)

1 Cor 3:6-7 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

The Desperate are unashamed to cry out and beg for mercy: like the two blind men in **Mt 9:27** or the Canaanite Woman in **Mt 15:22**.

Mt 9:27 And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David."

Matthew 9:35—10: 15 ESV

Harvest Is Plentiful, Laborers Few

³⁵And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." ...

^{10:5}These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' ⁸Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. ⁹Acquire no gold nor silver nor copper for your belts, ¹⁰no bag for your journey, nor two tunics nor sandals nor a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. ¹¹And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. ¹²As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. ¹⁵Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

Mt 15:22 And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon."

In **1 Ki 19** Elijah complained, "and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." And the Lord answered, "I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal."

The Lord assured the returning exiles in **Zechariah 4**: "not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit."

In **1 Peter 2** we hear of a spiritual priesthood of all believers. This does not mean there are not to be Pastors, but rather, that all of us can speak of our hope, pray for others, and show compassion and mercy.

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Psalm 100

¹Be joyful in the LORD, **all** you lands;*
serve the LORD with gladness
and come before his presence
with a song.

²Know this: The LORD **himself** is God;*
he himself has made us,
and we are his;
we are his people
and the sheep **of** his pasture.

³Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his **courts** with praise;*
give thanks to him
and call **upon** his name.

⁴For the LORD is good;
his mercy is **everlasting**;*
and his faithfulness endures
from **age** to age.

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