

Luke 10:2 Therefore said he unto them, **The harvest truly is great**, but the labourers *are* few: pray ye therefore **the Lord of the harvest**, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

Autumn brings gorgeous fall leaves, pumpkins, hayrides, and harvests of crops. For many people, local fairs occur in this season with contests, balloon fiesta, rides, and delicious food. We enjoy the harvest that autumn ushers in with beauty.

As we enter this harvest season, it is most appropriate to focus our attention upon this title of the Lord Jesus Christ – *“The Lord of the Harvest.”*

I. THE VISION OF THE HARVEST

- ❖ The beginning of the harvest is a vision for the reaping before there is any planting of seeds.
- ❖ The disciples seemed to be oblivious to Jesus' vision of the harvest.

Jn. 4:35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and *then* cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, **Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.**

❖ When a believer views the destiny of a soul, whether heaven or hell, the motivation for obedience will produce the reaping of a bountiful harvest.

2 Cor. 9:6 But this *I say*, **He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.**

7 **Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give***; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

- ❖ The results of a “harvest vision” are contingent upon the effort:

Gal. 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for **in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.**

II. THE VARIETY OF THE HARVEST

- ❖ The variety of the harvest is exhibited by the parable of the sower and Jesus’ explanation of the four types of “soils.”

Mt. 13:3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;
4 And when he sowed, some *seeds* fell by **the way side**, and the fowls came and devoured them up:
5 Some fell upon **stony places**, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:
6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.
7 And some fell among **thorns**; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:
8 But other fell into **good ground**, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

❖ The four types of soils are...

1. The Way Side
2. The Stony Places
3. The Thorns
4. The Good Ground (which also bears a variety of results)

❖ The “good ground... brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.”

❖ Believers should focus on the sowing of seeds...ALL THE TIME...EVERYWHERE.

1 Pet. 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

III. THE VALUE OF THE HARVEST

Mt. 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

- ❖ The value of the harvest is viewed from the shadow of the cross.
- ❖ The value to the Creator was manifested in the suffering and death of His Son.
- ❖ The laborers in the harvest must view the value as being dear to the Lord, and consequently, dear to their heart.

Summary

- ❖ Harvest time is the completion and fruitfulness of focused efforts toward such an end.

Prov. 13:23 Much food *is in* the tillage of the poor: but there is *that is* destroyed for want of judgment.

- The Potential – “Much food...”
- The Performance – “...*is in* the tillage...”
- The Problems – “...there is *that is* destroyed for want of judgment.”
- The Poor – “...of the poor...” Psa. 10:14 “...the poor committeth himself unto thee...”

- ❖ A vision of the harvest must precede the effort to accomplish it.
- ❖ Because “the harvest truly is great but the labourers *are* few,” believers are commanded to “pray ye therefore **the Lord of the harvest**, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.”
- ❖ “*The Lord of the Harvest*” has complete control of directing the plan, participation, progress, production, and praise of “His harvest.”

- ❖ The Lord of the Harvest has commanded the believers to be involved in His harvest.
- ❖ The Lord of the Harvest is the **ONLY WAY** to heaven.
- ❖ The Lord of the Harvest deserves to have His message preached to all the world.

Conclusion

Consider the “High Priestly” prayer of Jesus:

Jn. 17:17 **Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.**

18 **As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.**

❖ Sanctified believers possess a “harvest vision” just like the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Tim. 2:21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, **sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.**

Jn. 20:21 “...as *my* Father hath sent me, even so send I you.”