



## ~ Distracted and Preoccupied ~

*“Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!” – John 4:34-35*

The determination for harvest time varies per crop type and the usage of that crop. Some produce is shipped and sold to stores for consumer use and thus is generally harvested earlier in order to ship quality food. In addition, the handling of the harvest also varies per the type of crop that is grown. Some crops, like tomatoes, need to be harvested in the cool of the day to avoid moisture loss and dehydration in the produce once harvested.

With grain, timing is also crucial. If you harvest the grain too soon, it will not store as well due to its high moisture content. It will be more susceptible to mold. If the grain is left in the field too long, then the grain is prone to attack from insects and other pests or it may crack from repeatedly becoming wet and then dry as it sits outside. It then becomes unfit for use.

Most would say that the timing of a harvest can be somewhat of a gamble when deciding the best time to gather it in order to optimize the best return. One must be watchful and careful in order to determine the best time and then the harvest must be brought in with all speed.

In John 4, Jesus tells us that the harvest is ready. It’s time to gather the crop for the ultimate results. We aren’t to look at the timing thru a human perspective, but a divine one. The crop for harvest takes on many forms. It can come in the form of our co-workers, our family, our children, our spouse, our neighborhood, our community, and world at large.

As Christians, we are all to be a “light on the hill” as workers for Christ to draw others to Him. However, that means we require a power outside of ourselves in order to be effective and to have a purposeful, urgent attitude. Luke 10:2 tells us the first thing we are to do is pray. In Acts 1, Jesus tells the disciples to stay in Jerusalem until the Spirit came upon them and then they were to go. That is the purpose of prayer – to maintain a connection with Jesus that empties us of self and fills us with His Spirit. Then we are empowered to be effective for Him.

**The key to becoming an effective laborer is much prayer.** However, if prayer is the key to receiving power and a changed perspective, how will we ever receive an urgency for the harvest God requires if we are not praying for it as a church and as a people? Our issue is not in believing that the harvest is great, our issue is having a sense of urgency to **care** that the harvest is great. Our distractions keep us from prayer, which keep us from power, which keep us from effective action. Our complacency is almost reaching its zenith. *“Then He spoke a*

parable to them that men always ought to pray and not lose heart. Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:1, 6-8)

Jesus is illustrating the problem. We are not persevering in prayer. Faith hangs on. It does not let go. We are not persisting with God to give us a burden and urgency for His harvest. We are not praying for increased faith that allows God to do what only He as God could do in impossible situations. Because prayer is too often neglected, God's people meander around with good intentions, but no power because they haven't truly sat at the feet of Jesus to receive power and purpose from the heart of God. We cannot allow any distractions to keep us from doing what we know will empower and fill us. Mary and Martha experienced that lesson also. "But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." – Luke 10:40-42

God sees your life. He knows your struggles and your temptations. He is giving you the answer for change if you would only accept. Are you distracted and meandering around as a Christian with no real power and no real peace? The answer is sitting at the feet of Jesus, asking for those distractions to be removed so you can experience what it means to be a genuine Christian. Let Mary's experience be your experience. He has promised to fill you. "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." – Ezek. 36:26

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