

Title: Harvest Time

Text: Matthew 9:36-38

Introduction:

1. Today we enjoyed a meal of foods some of us harvested from our own gardens.
2. Some of us brought foods which reminded us of the harvest season.
- 3.

Proposition:

Question:

Transition:

I. Compassion (36)

A. *But when he saw the multitudes. . .*

1. We are given a glimpse into the heart of God for His people.
 - a) In view in this passage is the nation of Israel.
 - b) Although there were an abundance of religious leadership and guidance, ultimately it was worthless, as if they had none.
 - c) Jesus purpose was to shepherd the people into the Kingdom.
2. As He observed the people they melted His heart for their dire spiritual need.
 - a) He wanted to meet their spiritual need.
 - b) Without a shepherd they would have no hope.

B. *. . .because they fainted, and were scattered. . .*

1. Israel needed someone to come and fill the spiritual gap.
2. The sheep of Israel were lacking true spiritual leadership to lead them into fellowship with God.
3. What a devastating commentary on the religious leaders, God considered them useless.

C. Application

1. Many in our day are in the condition of Israel.
2. Currently being led astray by false religions:
 - a) Not just false religions of the classical sense, but post-Christian false religions.
 - b) Religion of materialism, self, evolution, and government
3. The reality of it all is people are being deceived to live for the now, and if necessary do enough nice things to make yourself feel good.

4. **God looks down and sees a world full of people on their way to destruction and groans in sorrow.**
5. **Do we groan in sorrow or are we too busy with our own lives to think about the harvest of souls?**

II. Need (37)

A. *Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous...*

1. **Jesus was relaying a timeless truth.**
 - a) **As He gazed upon the people with omniscient eyes, He saw the hearts of the people.**
 - (1) The disciples needed to develop a sense of the spiritual needs of people.
 - (2) Without which they would fail to accomplish their future tasks.
 - b) **This timeless truth needed to be given to disciples of all ages.**
2. **The timeless truth was people are not flesh and blood, but spiritual beings headed to eternity; and now is the only time of preparation.**
 - a) **As only God in the flesh could possibly understand, people are people.**
 - (1) People are annoying, troublesome, and sinful creatures.
 - (2) Without the proper perspective no one is worth the time.
 - b) **However, this life alone is given to us to prepare for eternity.**
 - (1) The disciples were given God's view of the annoying, troublesome, and sinful creatures: compassion for their eternal souls.
 - (2) As creatures created in His image, He desires all to be saved.

B. *...but the labourers are few;*

1. **The other side of the souls needing spiritual salvation is the need for labourers.**
 - a) **God chose mankind to share the truth of salvation with mankind.**
 - b) **It necessitates followers of God to go out and tell others about Christ.**

2. **Jesus says the need is great and there exists a shortage of helpers.**
 - a) **In His own ministry He could not go out everywhere people were, He needed help.**
 - b) **The disciples needed to go out and help reach the lost.**

C. Application

1. **We also need to see the people as God sees them.**
 - a) **We need to understand the despite the humanness of people, they are eternal souls.**
 - b) **People are going to spend eternity in Heaven or Hell.**
2. **The reality is the lost greatly outnumber the redeemed.**
 - a) **It has always been this way, even in the day of Christ.**
 - b) **However, that simply means opportunity abound for you and I.**

III. Command (38)

A. *Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest. . .*

1. **The will of God is a command.**
 - a) **Here we see God give us a command to pray for help.**
 - b) **True, there is much work to do, but we can pray.**
2. **It is *His harvest*.**
 - a) **It is not ours, but God's.**
 - b) **He has used us to plant His seed, to water His seed, and He uses us to harvest the fruit.**
 - c) **God divinely cares and cultivates the harvest.**

B. Application

- 1. Let us not forget to pray for help in God's harvest.**
 - a) Pray for your pastor.**
 - b) Pray for each other.**
 - c) Pray for our missionaries.**

- 2. There is much work to be done and with God's help we will all sit at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in Heaven, enjoying a harvest meal of souls!**