Come & join the HARVEST

Matthew 9:35-38
Matthew 9:35-38

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.”
OBSERVATION 1) THE WORLD DESPERATELY NEEDS THE LORD (V. 36)

“like sheep without a shepherd”
- No direction
- Vulnerable to danger
- No relief from trouble
The Good News = Jesus came to be our Shepherd!
Luke 19:10; Matthew 1:21; John 3:16-17; John 10:10
OBSERVATION 2) THE WORLD IS RIPE TO RECEIVE THE GOSPEL, BUT SOMEONE NEEDS TO SHARE IT (V. 37)

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.”
John 4:35
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.
OBSERVATION 3) THE ANSWER FOR THE WORLD’S NEED IS PRAYER & WORKERS IN THE FIELD (V. 38)

“Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Jesus gives us 2 simple instructions: Pray & Go Harvest!

Will we obey?
3 Principles for working the Harvest:

1) Recognize that working God’s land is a communal effort- all of us play a part!
1 Corinthians 3:6-9

6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8 The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. 9 For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.
John 4:37-38

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.”
Plowing,
Sowing,
Watering,
Reaping-
Be open to how God may use you!
3 Principles for working the Harvest:

1) Recognize that working God’s land is a communal effort - all of us play a part!

2) Pray for the Harvest
Why Pray?

Prayer prepares the soil
Prayer prepares the worker
3 Principles for working the Harvest:

1) Recognize that working God’s land is a communal effort— all of us play a part!
2) Pray for the Harvest
3) Get your hands dirty
Get your hands dirty:
First- Plant the Seed
How do we plant the seed of the Gospel?
How do we plant the seed of the Gospel?

ENGAGE PEOPLE - Christians are called to take the gospel to the world. Jesus called us, “Fishers of men”

Acts 17:17

So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.
How do we plant the seed of the Gospel?

COMMUNICATE THE GOSPEL - People must hear & understand the gospel in order to respond to it.

Romans 10:13-15

13 for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Lifestyle evangelism alone is inadequate.
How do we plant the seed of the Gospel?

RELATE TO PEOPLE - While lifestyle evangelism alone is inadequate it can be a helpful tool in communicating the gospel. Hearts, as well as heads, must be won. 1 Thessalonians 2:8

We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.
Get your hands dirty:
First- Plant the Seed
Second- Tend the crops
How do we tend the crops? Invest in the Harvest.

Time/ Talents/ Treasures ($)
Get your hands dirty:
First- Plant the Seed
Second- Tend the crops
Third- Reap the fruit
How do we reap the fruit?

Invite others to receive Christ-
Many Christians know how to fish, but they fail to set the hook!
We must give people the opportunity and encouragement to take that first step of faith.
Will you come and join the Harvest?

There is nothing greater than living for the Lord!