

The Harvest

Introduction: The Barber

This is not a lesson to demoralize or shame anyone into evangelizing...

- Blackaby and King

I. The Four principles for harvesting

A. Share our faith **Rom. 10:17**

1. No one receives Christ in a vacuum.
2. But it takes a person who is willing

B. We need to leave our familiar world- to have contact with those not saved **Rom 10:13-15a**

C. We need to invest our abilities and talents **Rom 12:6-8**

D. We need to give our money **1 Tim 5:18**

In harvesting the Lord's harvest, none of the above principles is primary.

II. Jesus' uncommon approach

A. Compassion

1. Jesus doesn't begin with the four principles

Matthew 9:35-36

2. The people Jesus ministered to were distressed/harassed and downcast/helpless

a. William Barclay suggests that the Jewish leaders were the ones who harassed these people

b. They didn't bring help and comfort

- a religion that was burdensome instead of supportive

-the Christian religion exists not to discourage, but to encourage!

B. Jesus was filled with compassion

1. This word compassion really means "the inward parts" the "bowels"

2. The Greeks believed that deep within the bowels was the seat of the emotions

-Now the disciples were on the sidelines but in **Matt 9:37** the emphasis shifts

C. Jesus changed the picture of shepherd/sheep to harvest/workers

1. In the sheep/shepherd picture we see God meeting the needs of mankind

2. In the harvest/worker picture we see mankind meeting the need of God- **Tragic Death**

b. Jesus passed on the image to his disciples but they did not catch the image of compassion

Matthew 14:14-17

Matthew 15:29-33

Matthew 19:13-14

D. Jesus meant for the gospel to extend to the ends of the earth

1. The disciples however had a different view

2. Instead of telling the disciples to start picking, Jesus instructs them to pray **Matt. 9:38**

3. The hardest part of evangelism is prayer

a. Continually

b. Compassion

c. Certainty

d. Confidence

This is the model that Jesus sets before us...

III. The results of using Jesus' example of prayer

A. Transfers compassion

1. We begin to change

2. Deep compassion Jesus had

(E. Stanely Jones)

B. It transfers responsibility-

Respond like Christ

C. We become active and have personal involvement -

Act on what we pray about

Conclusion: Only when we do it God's way can He make a difference through us

A. Difference makers in the Bible:

1. Noah saved mankind
2. Abraham "all the families of the earth shall be blessed"
3. Joseph to save many people
4. Moses deliverer Hebrews
5. Joshua anything became possible
6. Ezra and Nehemiah- vision and faith to rebuild the temple, the city walls and the spirit of the people

B. You can make a difference-- God is searching for men and women "whose heart is completely His

C. Let's put our money where our mouth is- next four weeks we will be meeting at the building for prayer

1. Pray

- a. Family members
- b. Friends
- c. Co-workers
- d. Neighbors

2. Pelham TV and Chelmsford TV

3. Restoration

D. Then when we share our faith

1. Leaving our familiar world
2. Invest our abilities and talents
3. Give our money, wherever it is needed

There is no harvest if there are no laborers-- **And there are no laborers if there is no compassion**

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