

Looking forward- Prayers of expectancy.

Sermon Notes

January 5, 2020

***Illustration:** Why church? Why Creating Space, Expecting Harvest? Praying for a harvest...really?

Seeing the Potential for Harvest. **Matthew 9:35**

- Being present.
 - For people to understand their need for a savior there has to be context.
 - As opportunity comes give the gospel context—be a teacher.
 - Jesus taught where the people would be—in the synagogues.
- Proclaiming.
 - When there is context then we understand our condition.
 - The gospel becomes “good news”.
 - You cannot respond if you do not know.
- Meeting needs.
 - When there was ministry to the physical needs a platform was created.
 - Meeting needs reveals the heart of the messenger.
 - People will receive if they can trust your motives.

Heart behind the harvest—compassion! **Matthew 9:36-38**

- The heart of compassion happens when you see and understand the state of another.
 - Hardness of heart happens when you see and understand the state of another, and you choose to walk by or avoid.
- Compassion in action happens when you see the state of another you intervene, and you become an advocate on their behalf.
 - Directly in meeting their needs
 - Indirectly when you pray to God on their behalf.
- Compassion drives you to pray! You pray for harvest, to the Lord of the harvest.
 - Jesus tells them to ask God to send harvesters.
 - Ironically, they were instructed to pray for God to send harvesters, which was the very thing they were being trained for.

Work of the Harvest.

Cultivate- preparing the soil of the heart to receive.

Plant- sowing seeds of the gospel into a relationship by word and deed.

Reap- presenting and calling for a response to the gospel.

Preparing for the Harvest.

1. Pray for those in your relational world—your oikos! **Matthew 9:38; Luke 18:1-18**
2. Sow seeds of the good news by words and deeds.

Galatians 6:7-10 *7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper **time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.** 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

3. Sow generously out of compassion.

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 *6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9 As it is written:*

*“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever.”^[a]*

*10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the **harvest of your righteousness.** 11 You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*

4. Trust God for the results.

1 Corinthians 3:5-9 *5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. 7 So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. 9 For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.*