

Introduction

Lord Of The Harvest

Matthew 9:36-38

(Matthew 9:36-38 KJV) "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion¹ on them, because they fainted², and were scattered abroad³, as sheep having no shepherd. {37} Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly *is* plenteous⁴, but the laborers⁵ *are* few; {38} Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest."

¹ Aorist Passive Indicative *splagchnizomai* {pronounced *splangkhnid'-zom-ah-ee*}, to be moved by emotion

² Perfect Passive Participle *ekluo* {*ek-loo'-o*}, were despondent

³ Perfect Passive Participle *rhipto* {*hrip'-to*}, to be cast to the ground, sown, thrown out

⁴ *polus* {pronounced *pol-oos'*}, many, much, large

⁵ *oligos* {pronounced *ol-ee'-gos*}, little, small, few in number

What would the Lord Jesus say if He were here with us today, looking on American society? Would He look at the average American and consider them *hardened, without need* of salvation? Or would He look on America with different eyes than the average fundamental or

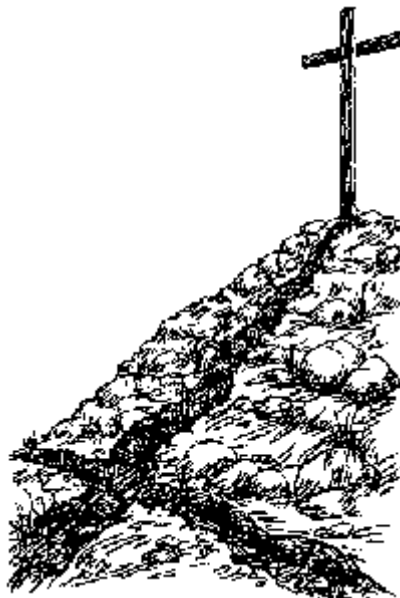
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evangelical preacher? I believe we need *new eyes*, we need *compassionate eyes*, we need the *eyes of Jesus* as we approach this new generation for our Savior.

Jesus commanded us that we *pray* - and as God's people we need to pray. Never have we needed more to pray, and seek God's help.

1. We Need To Pray For The Harvest

(Matthew 9:36 KJV) "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion¹ on them, because they fainted², and were scattered abroad³, as sheep having no shepherd."

I believe there is still a harvest in America. I believe souls can be reached for Christ. I do believe people have become hardened, but I believe that the harvest is still there. I believe we have that promise from Jesus.

There is a harvest all around us, though it takes the eyes of God to see it. I want you to notice how our Biblical text describes those Whom Jesus saw:

(Matthew 9:36 KJV) "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion¹ on them, because they fainted², and were scattered abroad³, as sheep having no shepherd."

Jesus saw the people as *fainting*, weary, weak as water. These people chased Him for physical healing, but few saw Him as Lord Messiah, the only Savior of the world. Has this situation changed in our day? No! In fact, it has grown worse, not better, since Jesus' day.

The Bible tells us that:

(2 Corinthians 4:3-4 KJV) "... if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: {4} In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

Just as *Sampson was blinded by Jezebel's beauty, and then his eyes were burned out by the Philistines, (Judges 16:28) Satan has blinded the minds* of the unbeliever. That tricky old fallen angel has cloaked the Gospel of salvation in a number of ways. Let's look at these:

a. The **"God's Not Real" poker**. This steel rod has been sharpened and driven into the mind's eye of school children and adults by scientists who have done anything but exercise scientific discipline. Satan uses evolutionists and humanism to tell America that God is an outdated concept. Those with eyes can see a clear design in nature, yet those who are blinded by Satan find it quite easy to discount God's clear fingerprint on nature.

b. The **"Any God Will Do" burning brand**. Satan jammed this flaming stick in the eyes of Israel when Moses went up on the Mount to receive the Law. Just as a large part of Israel died after creating the golden calf, many Americans die today unrepentant and unsaved. The "Any God Will Do" crowd teach that there are many

ways to be saved, and certain elements of this cult teach that “**God is a kindly old Gent** Who cares little about how you live your life”.

C. The **“I’m Good Enough Without Jesus” goggles.**

Satan confused the **rich young ruler** (**Matthew 19:16**) while Jesus walked this earth, and still confuses well meaning people today. Though the Bible clearly teaches that **good works will not save you** (**Titus 3:5**), many people refuse to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior because they think *their good is good enough* for Heaven. There are a number of holier than thou religious types that clearly belong to this group - especially those who teach the lies of papal infallibility (the Pope saves - not Jesus) and baptismal regeneration (our church's water baptism saves you).

I could go on and on, for there are many ways that Satan has blinded the minds of the unbeliever. Just as the land becomes hard and dry after a long period where the rain of God has not hit her soil. We have become watered with entertainment, with evolution, with abortion, with convenience, with anything but God's Kingdom Gospel. Many have even begun to believe that they will go to Heaven because they come from a good family name - But friend, **if you're not in the Family of God by faith in Jesus** you're no better off than the unrepentant drunkard. You MUST be born again (**John 3:3; 1 Peter 1:23**).

We need the Lord of the Harvest to open the eyes of the sinner. Just as Jesus walked this earth and opened the eyes of the blind with a touch and a word, we need Jehovah Jesus to open the eyes of the lost to their true

condition.

Pray ye the Lord of the Harvest. Pray also because:

2. This Harvest Needs Laborers

Jesus told His disciples:

(Matthew 9:36-38 KJV) "... when Jesus saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion¹ on them, because they fainted², and were scattered abroad³, as sheep having no shepherd. {37} Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous⁴, but the laborers⁵ are few; {38} Pray ... “

If the ground of the harvest in America has been hardened, God *must* send laborers into the harvest. The harder, more unplowable the field, the greater the need for many hands, dedicated hearts, and *experiential righteousness*.

a. Laborers must be committed to the message, while allowing God to supply the means. The wise laborer prepares the ground, plants the seed, then trusts God to bring the increase. When Paul was compared to the eloquent preacher Apollos by the Corinthian believers, the great Apostle said:

1 Corinthians 3:6-7 (KJV) "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. {7} So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase."

God gives the increase. God provides salvation by the bloody Cross of Christ. We must not choke the message by taking the place of God. I will give you an example. I love the King James Bible – have loved it since I was saved under its preaching years ago. But many of you do not use the King James Bible, but use other versions. God forbid that I disdain and criticize your choice of Bible! As long as what you are using is translated from the original language – and I often return to the original language for greater depth of meaning – then who am I to laugh at that means by which God is using?

Have you ever seen a potter at work, “throwing” a pot. He takes a raw lump of clay and, as he pushes the turntable of the potter's wheel with his foot, he pushes that clay into the center of the wheel. Next the potter takes his hands and presses the spinning clay. Periodically he takes his hands and wets them in water, dribbling water over the spinning work. He presses the clay, molding it, wetting it, shaping it. With His hands Jesus molds us, with His Blood He shapes us into what He wants us to be. God is at work! God is at work now! I must not push my hands into the place where God's hands should be, lest I twist the pot into *my image*. God makes the pot. Jesus controls the clay.

b. Laborers must believe in – and use - their product.

The two biggest soft drink producers in America today are Coca-Cola® and the Pepsi® corporations. They both have *very strict guidelines for their employees*, guidelines that are not usually made public. If you work for either company, you are not allowed to use products from the competitor. It is bad for business for someone

to be driving a Pepsi® Cola truck, and be seen drinking a Coca-Cola®. In the same way laborers for the Harvest need to *use the resources of the Kingdom*. Jesus put it this way:

Luke 9:62 (KJV) "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

If you look backwards where you came from, you will never get where God wants you to be. The ancient farmer set his eyes on a fixed point *in front of himself* as he plowed, and by doing so he kept a straight row. The Christian must set his eyes on a fixed point – the Cross of Jesus, the risen Savior – and by so doing we will plow a straight row for God.

If I preach Jesus but use *any resource but Jesus*, if I **hate** instead of **love**, if I am **mean spirited** instead of **gracious**, then I plow a crooked row. The world sees this crooked row, and discounts what I say as just another *religious nut*. But if I keep my eyes on Jesus and live as He showed me, if I use the Kingdom product *the way that He showed me*, then I am truly a laborer for Him. If I plow the field in Jesus people will see this and be attracted to the Jesus I know.

c. The harvest needs laborers who are Carpenters, not people who are committed to “vanity of the mind”. We have an *overcoming faith*, a faith that should be advertised by *the way we live* as the *only Way to live*.

1 John 5:4-5 (KJV) "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. {5} Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"

When I was growing up I was always impressed with the people who advertised "Wheaties – the breakfast of champions[®]". Every time a shipment of Wheaties came into the store it would have another sport's star on the front of the box. I don't remember who it was all the time, and as I grow older my memory isn't what it used to be – but Wheaties always had a picture of some famous baseball, football, soccer, skating, boxing (et cetera) star. That star would always be doing one thing. The star would have a bowl of Wheaties in one hand, and a spoonful of Wheaties in the other hand – and a smile on her or her face – as they ate the cereal. "Oh", their expression seemed to say, "Wheaties are so goooood!". Children and adults bought this cereal on the basis of the cover of the box – not based on its taste. There were better tasting cereals on the market (I always thought), but Wheaties had something that no one else had – a spokesperson we all admired. So we bought Wheaties. The **testimony led us to buy Wheaties.**

If we could only advertise Jesus like we advertise Wheaties! Jesus is better for you than Wheaties. Jesus gives you peace. He is a Friend Who will never let you down. **When Jesus tore something down, rebuked a concept, or without offering an *overcoming solution in His own presence*.** When Jesus rebuked the **woman at the well** for her five husbands, for her loose way of life (**John 4:26**), He told her "**I am the Messiah**, your

Savior". His message tore down, but offered salvation in Him. When **Peter failed** Jesus miserably the Lord never condemned, but instead offered a different solution - "**Feed My Sheep**" (**John 21:16**).

Vanity and emptiness of the mind come in many different ways. Some are committed to *worldliness*, which leads to destruction. Others are committed to *self-righteousness*, which was the sin of the Pharisees.

None of us have earned or deserve the salvation we have in Christ, and it is an abomination before God when we crow of our own righteousness. Paul said:

Philippians 3:9 (KJV) "[I want to be} found in him [Jesus Christ], not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith..."

My own righteousness brings death and damnation, but Christ's righteousness in me brings life. It's **all about Jesus** – all about Jesus!

3. Finally, It Is God's Harvest

(Matthew 9:38 KJV) "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest."

The harvest *belongs to God*. We need to pray to Him that **He will prepare the harvest – but not only that, *prepare***

our hearts for the harvest. In the early Church growth came when the laborers were reliant on God to send the harvest. Jesus told His disciples:

Acts 1:4 (KJV) "... wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me."

The disciples were to go and pray and wait for God's empowerment. The Day of Pentecost came, and God empowered His people to reach the lost. There is only one Day of Pentecost. This period of time has come, and gone, and will be no more. The Bible tells us that *all of us who believe* are baptized by the Spirit of God:

1 Corinthians 12:13 (KJV) "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."

You are baptized by the Spirit of God, indwelt by His precious Spirit at the *very moment of your salvation*. You do not need to go to Jerusalem and wait for the Baptism – you have that. But you do need to *surrender to God* just as those first century Christians surrendered to God.

The harvest belongs to God, so we turn to Him in prayer and say, "Father, send your increase". We work together in love, empowered by the Spirit of God, by the Word of God, saying "Father, send your increase". We praise God for His harvest. We grow. We do not become weary in well doing. The Bible says:

Galatians 6:9 (KJV) "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint

not."

Consider the farmer who plants the seed. He tills the soil, buries the seed, waters – if he is able – and waits on God for the increase. When the increase comes he does not praise his farming methods, nor his ability to grow crops, but he praises God who gave the increase.

Jesus, we magnify your name! Jesus, we praise you, and wait for your increase. Jesus, we bow down, believing this harvest to be yours. We surrender to you, Blessed Savior, and trust in your provision. Until You provide, Dear Lord, we shall have no harvest. God – we pray for the harvest. We pray for our children, our loved ones, those who have no commitment to you. We pray for those we work with, who profess to know Christ, yet live immersed in the world and its ways. We pray, dear Lord, that You will bring a harvest both here, and to every church that lifts up the holy name of Jesus.

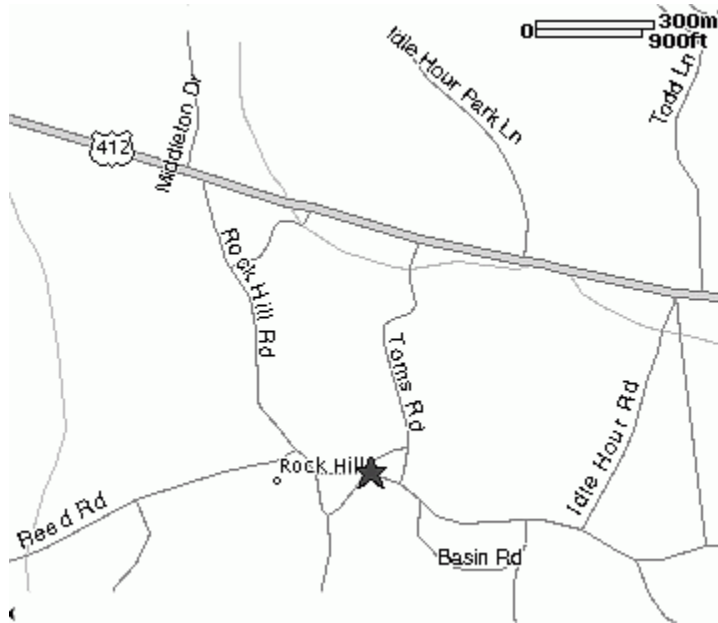
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Rock Hill Baptist Church is located on highway 412 (east if you head toward Parsons, Tennessee, west if you are heading toward Lexington, Tennessee). Rock Hill is a growing Bible teaching church committed to prayer and the ministry of God's holy Word. We welcome all seekers to come and experience our services. We worship on Sunday starting at 10:00 AM (Bible class), 11:00 AM (Worship service), 6:00 PM (Prayer services), and on Wednesday night at 7:00 PM (Prayer, Bible, Team Kids, Youth Services). Contact Brother David Buffaloe (our Pastor) at 731-845-6104 for more details.

You can contact Brother David at 731-845-6104, or through his website at bibleteacher.org; or e-mail him by writing webmaster@bibleteacher.org.



Rock Hill is an independent Church affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Convention, and is a regular contributor to missions through the Cooperative Program.