

## Harvest

### The Heart of a Harvester

Key passage: Romans 10:1

- ❖ We do not pursue what we do not desire. 1 Sam. 17:29-32
- ❖ You can't fix a desire problem with religious programs or commands.
  - God gives us choices – Deut. 30:11-20; Joshua 24:15
    - God has made accommodations for our choices – Isa. 5:14; 2 Pet. 2:4
- ❖ What does “heart’s desire” mean?
  - Desire reveals our hearts
  - Rom. 10:1: Heart’s (kardia):
    - (figuratively) the thoughts or feelings (mind); also (by analogy) the middle Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Definitions
  - Rom. 10:1: desire (eudokia): 1) will, choice; 2) delight, pleasure, satisfaction; 3) desire
- ❖ There is no shortage of harvest but seemingly a shortage of capacity to reap the harvest – Mat. 9:37-38
  - We must ask ourselves some questions?
    - Is there a shortage of souls that need saving or a shortage of hearts willing to reach them?
    - Is my heart in alignment with God’s Will? John 4:34

### What can I do if I don't have the heart of a harvester?

- ❖ Remember – Eph. 2:1-8
- ❖ Release to offenses – Eph. 4:31-32; Luke 23:34; **Acts 7:60**
- ❖ Renew your mind – Rom. 12:1-1-2
- ❖ Refresh by the Word of God – John 15:7; James 4:7; Eph. 4:17-24

### What are some “I wills” of the heart of a harvester?

- ❖ I will pray concerning the harvest – Mat. 9:37-38; Acts 13:1-4; Acts 8:14; Acts 6
  - Workers, strategies, assignments, systems
- ❖ I will operate with compassion concerning the harvest – Mat. 14:14
- ❖ I will not sit idly and allow the harvest to be spoiled in the field – Mat. 9:37-38; John 3:16; 2 Pet. 3:9
- ❖ I will do my part in watering what God is growing in the field – 1 Cor. 3:6
- ❖ I will make room to accommodate the harvest – 1 Chron. 4:10
- ❖ I will reap the harvest with character and integrity – Psa. 26:1
- ❖ I will receive help with the harvest – Luke 10:1-3; Mark 6:7
- ❖ I will not give up until I reap of the harvest – Gal. 6:9

## **The Health of the Harvester**

Key passage: Matthew 9:35-11:1

### **Can you be trusted in the field?**

### **Enduring while reaping the harvest**

#### **Some Keys to a Healthy Harvester**

- ❖ Keeps a proper perspective on the harvest – 1 Cor. 3:6-8
- ❖ Strives to balance the load while harvesting – 1 Cor. 9:27
- ❖ Takes care of:
  - Your relationship with God – Phil. 4:13;
  - Yourself physically and mentally – 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 1 Cor. 10:31; 1 Pet. 5:7-9
    - Let's really think about this scripture – Gal. 5:14
  - Your family – 1 Tim. 5:8
- ❖ Respects and works in community – Mar. 6:6-13
  - Notice that he commanded a community not just an individual – Mark 6:7; Luke 9:1
  - We must ask ourselves can we really be effective at reaching the harvest of souls if we are unable to work together – Ecc. 4:12
    - Unity draws Christ to the scene – Mat. 18:20; Psa. 133:1
    - Unity keeps us focused on who we are working for – Col. 3:23
    - Working together brings growth to the body – Eph. 4:16
- ❖ Makes sure to bring the right tools to the field
  - Catchy phrases and theatrics don't save souls – Jesus saves – 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Eph. 2:8-10
  - Do you have the Power of the Holy Ghost to witness? Acts 1:8
  - Do you know the Word of God?
    - Are you still teachable? Acts 18:26
- ❖ Does not reject but cultivates the seeds the master has planted – Acts 9:10-18
- ❖ Does not quit because of excuses but brings in those the master desires – Luke 14:12-24
- ❖ Is attentive to what's happening around the harvest – Mat. 13:24-43

## **It's Okay to Grow**

### **There is a right and a wrong growth**

#### **Some questions to consider**

- ❖ Do I want to grow?
- ❖ What do my actions indicate about my desire to grow?
- ❖ Am I growing?
  - Am I being given the necessary tools to grow? – Mat.
  - Am I using what's available to me
- ❖ Am I willing to make room for growth?
  - Giving others opportunities
  - Training and preparing others
- ❖ Do I have the courage to grow?

## **The Prayer of Jabez**

- ❖ What we know about Jabez?
  - Significance can not be fully understood outside of understanding his name
    - Jabez: ya`bêts: to grieve, sorrowful; the name resulted from the painful birth experienced by his mother (vs. 9)
    - From his birth, grief and sorrow has been spoken over him.
  - He must have been well known since the Bible does not give his lineage or much else about him
  - He was more honorable than his brothers
    - Honorable: rich, honorable; to make weighty (either good or bad)
  - As believers, we must believe that the God can place a greater weight of glory upon us – 2 Cor. 4:17
- ❖ Jabez renewed his mind

Just like Jabez, we can't change the circumstances of how we were raised. But, we can and must follow his example and renew our minds.

  - Rom. 12:2: renewing – anakainōsis: renovation
    - Renew in O.T.
      - châdash – 1 Sa. 11:14; Psa. 51:10; Lam. 5:21: to be new, to rebuild, to repair
      - châlaph – Isa. 40:31; Isa. 41:1: to hasten away, pass on, spring up, pierce or change: - abolish, alter change, cut off, go on forward, grow up, be over, pass (away, on, through), renew, sprout, strike through
- ❖ Jabez took it to God in prayer
  - We should pray in successes – 1 Kings 8:26-30
  - We should pray in discouragements – 1 Sam . 30:6-8

- We should pray without fainting – Luke 18:1
  - Faint – ekkakeō: to be (bad or) weak, that is, (by implication) to fail (in heart): - faint, be weary
- Jabez requested to be blessed “indeed”
  - We all are blessed (Mat. 5:45); However, we are not all blessed “indeed”  
“There are many who are blessed, but they are not blessed indeed. That is, they have something that is in one sense a blessings (such as family, salvation, wealth, fame, health, security), but yet because of fundamental dissatisfaction in their life, they are not blessed indeed” (David Guzik)
- Jabez requested enlarged territory – request God allow him to go beyond the limits...
  - Surrounded by Canaanites and other idol worshippers
  - Wanted to make greater impact for God – Jos 17:14-18; Jdg 1:27-36; Pro 10:22; Mat. 9:37
- Jabez prayed for the Hand of God to be on him – Bible talk for God’s Power and Presence  
Joshua 4:24; Isaiah 59:1; Psa. 77:10
- Jabez prayed for God to keep him from evil
  - Evil: ra` rā`âh: bad or (as noun) evil (naturally or morally) – John 17:15  
Psa 32:3-4, Psa 51:8, Psa 51:12; Mat 26:75; Joh 21:17; 2Co 2:1-7; Eph 4:30; Rev 3:19
- ❖ GOD DID IT!  
1Ki 3:7-13; Job 22:27-28; Psa 21:4, Psa 65:2, Psa 66:19-20, Psa 116:1-2; Mat 7:7-11; Eph 3:20