

GOD'S HUNTING SEASON

John 4:31-38

Introduction: There are a great number of people who love to hunt and they have equipped themselves as best they can afford to be hunters. They have guns, bows, traps, hunting clothing, decoys, disguises, boats, A.T.V.'s and private hunting places. However there are hunting seasons which are the only legal times in which hunters may pursue their game. Just prior to "opening day" of a hunting season, hunters make all sort of preparation, license, ammunition, everything they can think they might need to hunt.

What if Christians looked at the lost like a hunter looks at wild game. What if Christians were as aggressive about winning the lost to Jesus as hunters are in their hunting for whatever is in season? What if Christians looked at witnessing as "hunting the lost?" Contrary to our hunting laws and seasons, God has no closed season for witnessing, for hunting the lost. However most Churches seem to have seasons for hunting the lost. Two weeks out of the year, one week in the spring and one week in the fall is revival time - hunting for the lost time.

1. What about the average town.

- Is there "game" to be found and won for the Lord? Are there souls athirst for the Lord. Why is that only two weeks out of the year are focused, aimed at finding the lost?

2. Jesus spoke to His disciples about fields "white" unto harvest.

- Is there not such a field in your own neighborhood, "white," ripe, ready to be harvested for the Lord?

3. People are content to listen to their pastor, agreeing that there lost people "out there."

- For some reason Church members think all the lost are somewhere else, not around them, never realizing that the message is directed at them, that the great commission is aimed at them.

4. It is not twice a year that it is time to win the lost - only at revival times.

- There is no particular season or time of the year, it's always OPEN SEASON, it's always harvest time.

5. It is said that some have trouble finding help for their business because so many can now make as much doing nothing and drawing their welfare checks as if they had to actually work.

- So anger and disgust sticks in the throats of those who are trying to make a living the normal, human, hard way - by actually working.
- BUT, how do you think God feels about His "fields?" There are lost all around His Churches, all around his Children, but nobody wants to go to work. Everybody wants to draw their "welfare" check from God, His blessings, His protection, etc. but nobody cares about anybody else but him/herself.

6. Who in God's Church, who of His Children have ever said "I really want to be useful, but there's nothing I can do.." "I am willing to work, but I have no place to work..."?

- A true worker for the Lord will have a heart rich in love, burning with zeal for God and will always find a place to work for the Lord, always find a lost one somewhere nearby.

7. It's a fact! 99% of the Christian's time is spent either pursuing material things or enjoying them.

- True time has to be spent in making a living, yet as a Christian one believes that God provides for His own.
- The fact is: either one doesn't believe God can take care of him/her or that person is just not one of God's own.

- 8. The American way is for both husband and wife to both work in gaining material things and their family life goes to nothing.**
- No time for each other, no time for their children, no family time together.
 - Often dad/husband works in one town and mom/wife works in another and their children are being raised by somebody else.
 - They don't have time for each other or for their family and certainly NO TIME FOR GOD.
 - The devil has everyone thinking that it is up to him/her alone and before one knows what has happened life is over and all one has left is this or that - material thing.
- 9. Christians work all day, come home dog-tired, yet can make that club meeting or that PTA school meeting, etc., make the ball games the kids are playing in and even work at the concession stand, BUT -**
- They are just too tired to come to Bible study, too tired to make visitation, too tired to attend a prayer group, too tired to attend brotherhood or WMU, too tired to even come to Sunday School and Sunday Morning worship, and of course nobody ever attends Sunday evening services. Just too tired to do anything for the Lord.
- 10. The Devil has God's Children right where he wants them.**
- Most Christians are useless for God, a stumbling block to those who are lost, outside Jesus.
 - The devil has Christians working every minute going and doing for him until they just don't have the time or energy left for God.
 - Christian! You have friends who are lost, without the Lord Jesus and they will die and go to hell because you didn't have time for them.
- 11. Christian, someday God is going to make you take some time off from your busy schedule.**
- You may become flat on your back in some hospital, unable to move for anyone.
 - You may be taken out of this world in just a little while and then you won't have any more opportunity to do anything for the Lord.
 - You may lose your job that seems so precious to you right now.
 - You may lose a son or daughter whom you've been too busy to enjoy and spend time with.
 - You may end up in rest home somewhere, wasting away the hours, waiting for death to come.
- 12. Christian, STOP!** For God's sake! For your own sake STOP spending all your time pursuing material gain/things that seem to be so important that you are letting your friends and even family members go to hell.
- Is it so important that you sacrifice your family life for it? Are club meetings so important that they take up God's time?
- 13. Of those who are saved at the two yearly revivals the Church has, how many of them did you personally win?**
- How many of those who were saved did you pray for, lifting up daily to God? How many prayer meetings did you attend the week before the revival services?
- 14. Why should the weeks of preparation preceding revival services be any different from any other week through the year?**

CONCLUSION:

1. Who is going to work in God's fields if not His own Children? If not His own Church?
2. Why are YOU exempt from working in God's fields?
3. There is no closed season for hunting the lost and bringing them to the Lord Jesus.
4. Every Christian is "licensed" by God and expected to go, seek, find, and bring to Jesus the lost.
5. What are YOU going to do now, Christian?