

## WITNESSING IS LIKE FARMING

**Matthew 9:37-10:1; 13:1-9    Luke 10:2    John 4:35-38**

**Introduction:** Jesus often used farming expressions and illustrations when describing people who need to be told about God's love and how salvation comes through belief in His Son. Jesus compared the Gospel message like a seed, people like different kinds of soil and when one believes in Jesus it is "harvest time." Jesus would remind us today that as Christians, we are to be busy helping God harvest souls.

### **I. THERE IS A CROP OF SOULS THAT IS READY FOR HARVEST RIGHT NOW**

1. The harvest is necessary.
  - There are "fields" of people who are ready, ripe and need to be harvested.
  - The harvest must be **now**, in it's generation and there is but a short time otherwise it will die. Every moment someone dies and goes to either heaven or hell.
2. Every generation must be harvested in it's own generation.
  - Only during a person's earthly life can harvest take place.
  - Every person has a "peak" when he/she is "ready" to be harvested.
3. There are plenty that need to be harvested.
  - Children while they are still so innocent.
  - Youth before they enter the adult world.
  - Adults, men and women before they pass their peak and become hardened.
4. The harvest is nearby.
  - People within sight of your church building.
  - People across the street from you.
  - Co-workers and co-students.

### **II. SADLY, THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF FIELD HANDS**

1. There is no end to the amount of work that needs to be done.
  - There must be workers or there will be no harvest.
  - If there is no harvest, the crop will die where it stands.
2. Workers are desperately needed for **every** generation.
  - Each generation of Christians have their generation of souls that need to be won to Jesus.
  - A great harvest is available for each generation.
3. Why such a shortage of workers in God's fields of souls?
  - Some don't ever see the fields of the Lord.
  - Some don't ever hear the Lord's call for help.
  - Some don't want to work in the Lord's fields.
  - Some have tried it on their own and didn't do so good so they quit.
  - Some think they have "more important" things to do.

### **III. GOD PICKS THE WORKERS (FIELD HANDS) HIMSELF**

1. Each generation is to pray for God to select and send men and women to harvest.
  - God honors the prayers of those concerned for the harvest.
  - God has given pastors-teachers to equip those who are called to do the work in His fields.
2. God knows every person that is willing and ready to work in His fields.
  - He knows what needs to be done to equip each person going to work in His fields.
  - He knows who to send, where to send them and when they need to go.
3. What can help this generation pray harder for God to be able to harvest souls of this generation?
  - Christians already know about the good news and what it can do.
  - Christians know there are lost people all around and God wants to "harvest" them.
  - God has saved (harvested) you, Christian, therefore, in obedience and love to the Lord and for those lost souls around, you must join in helping God harvest those souls.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. God's crop is lost people. Harvesting them is bringing them into His family through their belief in His Son, Jesus, just as He did YOU.
2. God needs His Children to go out into His fields and witness, and help Him bring in the harvest.
3. God selects those whom He wants to go out and witness in His fields.
4. God equips those whom He will send out.
5. God sends out those whom He has selected and equipped to where He wants them to go.
6. God will reap a harvest there where you are when:
  - There is enough concern for the lost.
  - There is enough prayer for God to find and send workers.
  - There is enough commitment to go if God chooses YOU.
  - There is enough dedication to stay in the field where God sends YOU.
  - There is enough faith to believe what the Bible says.
  - There is enough conviction to stand firm and true for Jesus Christ.
7. Will you work in God's field of lost souls? Wherever He chooses to send you?