



***God's Appointed Times***  
***"The Harvest"***

**Matthew 9:35-38**

We have looked at the four spring feasts of Leviticus 23. We are now in what would be considered the summer months or the summer harvest.

In terms of God's redemptive program, we have learned the importance of the Sabbath: it is a time of rest, reflection, re-orientation, and re-prioritization of our lives around our relationship with Jesus. It is vitally important that we make meeting together a priority - to worship corporately and encourage one another. (*cf. Hebrews 10:19-25*)

We learned The Feast of Passover is the foundation of all the Feasts of Israel. It points to our redemption in Jesus. He is qualified to be our Savior as seen in The Feast of Unleavened Bread. The Feast of Firstfruits is the wave offering of the first of the barley harvest; Jesus fulfills this feast in His resurrection.

We learned God has raised up the church - Jew and Gentile believers as one "new man." This fulfills The Feast of Pentecost as the wave and loaf offering of the firstfruits of the wheat harvest.

We, the body of Messiah, have been set apart. The church should be on mission to consistently live out the gospel as Jesus' witnesses and representatives to the world.

In God's appointed times, we are now (present day) in the Harvest. This is the time when we are to work.

**Three Observations About The Harvest**

- 1) The harvest provides the opportunity to join the Holy Spirit in His work of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus and the message of His salvation.
- 2) The harvest is *not* about consumerism; it *is* about compassion.
- 3) The harvest is *not* about pleasure seeking; it *is* about people seeking.

**Being What the Rabbi Is: Matthew 9:35-36**

**\* A true disciple of Jesus will imitate the compassion of Jesus by seeing others as Jesus sees them.**  
**(Matthew 9:36)**

***“When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”***

We too were helpless - dead in our sin. But God being rich in mercy saved us! When we heard the good news, we responded in faith, yet thank God for the faithfulness of the one sharing. (cf. **Romans 10:14-17**)

**We have all been sent!** The moment you became a follower of Jesus and were adopted into the family of God, you were sent!

***\* A true disciple will be compelled to live, love and speak the gospel because they see what Jesus sees. (Matthew 9:37-38)***

***Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”***

What do you see when you look at the world? Do you see violence? Do you see death and destruction? Do you see terrorism? How do you respond to what you see? Disgust - a desire to stay away from the chaos - fear?

Jesus sees a harvest, a ripe field of souls to be gathered to the barn of His Father’s kingdom. He died on the cross so the harvest could occur.

Peter has told us, ***“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” (1 Peter 2:9)***

This is the reason for the church age. This time on God’s calendar is not intended for us to be spiritual consumers and strive to become spiritually fat. It is a time to declare the magnificence of God. It is a time to make the name of Jesus great by speaking about what He has accomplished for all of humanity.

***Jesus said:***

***“But you will receive power after the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”***  
(Acts 1:8)

***“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”***  
(Matthew 28:18-20)

Now, go....

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