Harvest — seeing the Individual

## See the Harvest! See the individual! See his Worth!

### Extract taken from IBLP — Bill Gothard

Money was running out for Jack, a struggling businessman. In fact, his financial problems had become so great that he had decided to leave town for a few weeks so he could "sort things out." One day Jack was walking through some woods when a man came up to him. Assuming that Jack was the owner of the forest, he said, "I will give you $3,000 for that tree behind you." When asked why he would pay so much for one tree, the man said, "I represent a lumber company and this is a virgin forest of mature **black walnut** trees. They are worth a lot."

Jack took down the man's name and phone number and began trying to locate the owner of the land. When Jack found the owner, he told him about the lumber company that wanted to harvest the trees. The owner said he had no time to fool with trees and lumber companies and suggested that Jack buy the land and make the arrangements to sell the trees himself. The land was bought for a fraction of its true value, and even now Jack continues to make a profit from harvesting the trees.

The original landowner failed to see the value of his potential harvest. All he saw was "a bunch of trees." We make the same mistake when we view crowds as simply "a bunch of people" instead of valuable individuals for whom Christ died. Each one is a unique creation of God, and God wants to "gather" them to Himself. Let’s see Jesus’ concern and command:

Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."**” (Matthew 9:36-38).**

It is the souls of people that need to be gathered in the Lord's harvest. As His laborers, our *first step* is to “lift up ... [our] eyes, and look on the fields” (John 4:35). But what are we to see when we look at the fields?

* **See people who are ready.** Jesus said that the fields are "white already to harvest." This indicates that the fruit is ripe and ready; it simply needs to be gathered. (See John 4:35.) // Stop & ask one person to pray about “*seeing the people ready*”//
* **See the work of others.** There would be no harvest if others had not gone before us to plant and water. We will be reaping the rewards of their labors. (See I Corinthians 3:6.) // Stop & ask one person to pray about *“seeing the work of others – Orthodox, Jehova Witnesses*”//
* **See the harvest as belonging to God, not to us.** One person plants and another waters, but it is God Who gives the increase. (See I Corinthians 3:7.) // Stop & ask one person to pray about “*seeing unbelievers belonging to God*”//
* **See the physical needs of people.** We can show God's love to others by seeking to meet their tangible needs as well as their spiritual needs. (See I John 3:17.) // Stop & ask one person to pray about “*seeing the physical needs of people*”//
* **See that the time of harvest is short.** Crops that are not gathered when they are ripe will rot in the fields. This should compel us to do all we can to gather them now! (See John 9:4.) .) // Stop & ask one person to pray about “*seeing the short lives of unbelievers*”//

When we truly see the value of the harvest and the urgency of gathering it in, we will be motivated to obey Christ's command to pray for laborers as well as to be a laborer. Therefore, let's begin to see the "multitudes" of people in buses, airports, and other places through the eyes of the Lord of the harvest!

Then I suggest the following for prayer time.

**Corporately:**

Praise focus — To God of compassion, Psalm 86:15

To Jesus Lord of the harvest Luke 10:2

**Separate and pray in groups of 3:**

Prayer points for yourself and your brothers as laborers:

That we will have compassion like Christ, Matt. 9:36

That we will get along with each other. John 17:2 & 13:35

That we will have a shepherd’s heart, Luke 15:4-6

That we will have the power of the Holy Spirit, Acts 1:8

That God will give opportunities to invite people, Matt. 22:9

That God will give clarity of the Gospel to seekers in groups, Rom 1:16

Blessings to you, our dear friends!

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