SOUL HARVEST

John 4:31-42

9-1-2024

INTRODUCTION:

***We must harvest precious souls for Christ!**

I. Soul Harvesting was the <u>Passion</u> of Jesus Christ (v. 31-33)

II. Soul Harvesting is the <u>Will</u> of God (v. 34)

III. Soul Harvesting is Urgent because the <u>Fields are Ready</u> (v. 35)

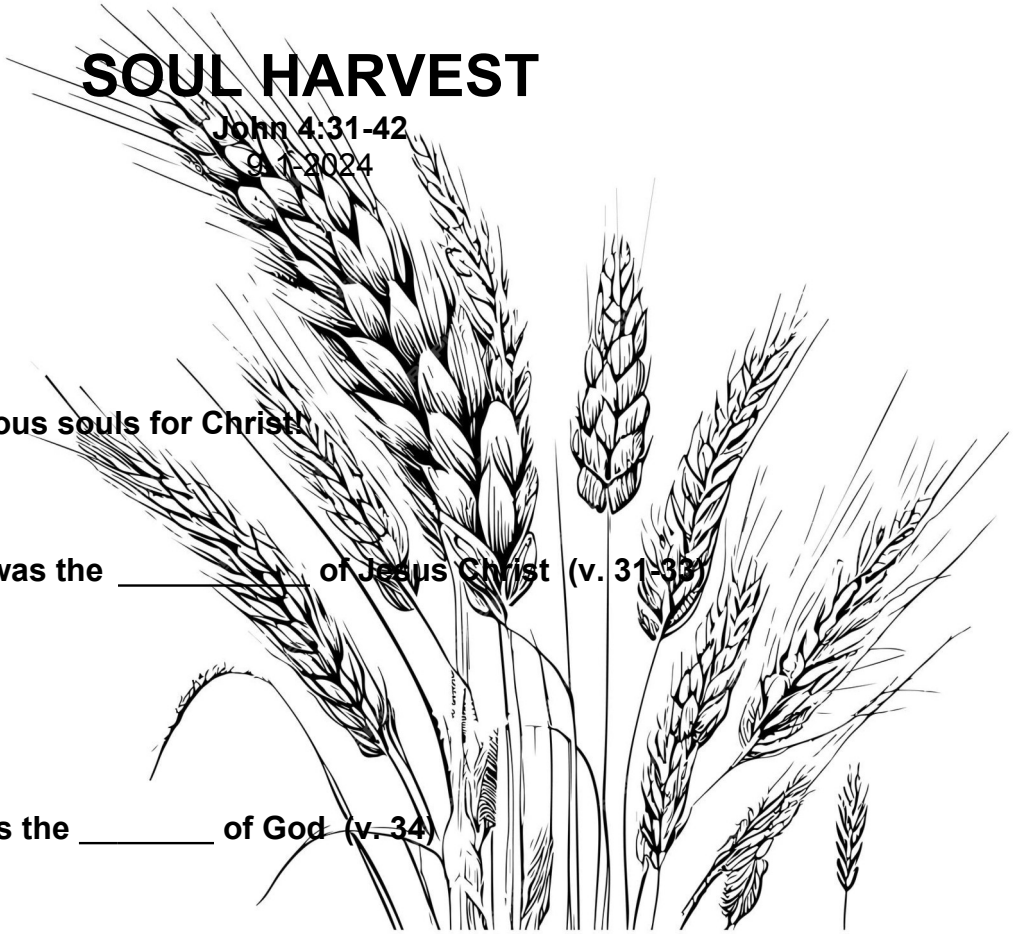
IV. Soul Harvesting Results in <u>Rewards</u> for the Laborers (v. 36)

V. Soul Harvesting is Often <u>Not</u> as <u>Difficult</u> as you may think (v. 38)

CONCLUSION: v. 39-42

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INTRODUCTION:
Context: Christ had compassion for the soul of a sinful Samaritan woman (vv. 4- 30).
Review context: To reach her for salvation . . .

a. **He overcame <u>weariness</u> (v. 6; cp. v. 31-35)**
(Jesus did not allow <u>fatigue</u> to stop Him from spreading the Gospel)

b. **He built a <u>bridge</u> (v. 7-9; cp. v. 27)**
(Jesus was willing to establish <u>rapport</u> by overcoming religious and cultural prejudice and other hindrances)

c. **He seized an <u>open door</u> (v. 10-15)**
(Jesus sought the opportunity to turn an "earthly" [natural] conversation into a "heavenly" [spiritual] conversation)

d. **He exposed the fact of <u>sin</u> (v. 16-18)**
(Jesus showed the woman her <u>need</u> for salvation)

e. **He taught essential <u>doctrine</u> (v. 19-24)**
(Jesus corrected the woman's spiritual misunderstanding and instructed her in Biblical truth)

f. **He pointed the Samaritan woman to <u>Himself</u> (v. 14, 25-26)**
(Jesus showed Himself to be the source of salvation - John 14:6)

***We must harvest precious souls for Christ!**

I. Soul Harvesting was the <u>Passion</u> of Jesus Christ (v. 31-33)

v. 31
We, like the disciples were, are very often preoccupied with the mundane matters of this life ---- feeding ourselves (our food), clothing ourselves, sheltering ourselves (our homes), securing ourselves (our bank account).

We spend more time thinking about our grocery list than we do planning how we are going to reach our neighbor for Christ; we give more attention to beautifying our appearance than to helping others get ready to meet God; we expend more effort in maintaining our possessions than in building relationships with people so as to win them to Christ.

"Master, eat" the disciples urged. Often, well-meaning people can be tools to divert our attention from the spiritual to the physical, from the eternal to the temporal, from the supernatural concerns of God to the natural appetites of men.

v. 32
"Meat" = food. "Food" is that which <u>fuels</u> the body; food is that which <u>energizes</u> the body.
To Christ, reading souls was that which fueled him; bringing others to His salvation was that which energized Him.
Soul-winning will fulfill our lives, as well!
Christ's compassion for the lost: Matthew 9:36-37

But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. [37] Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

Mt.9:36
"He was moved with compassion" - (aorist passive - from "splanchna"). The word refers to being moved emotionally on the insides; to feel sympathetic in one's person for someone to the point that it upsets your insides - your stomach.

[The noun form is often translated "bowels" referring to literal intestines - Acts 1:8; and to inward affection - II Cor. 7:15; Phil. 1:8, 2:1; Col. 3:12; Philemon 7]

Jesus was constantly moved with compassion toward others:

--Toward the multitudes who were spiritually (Mk. 6:34), and physically (Mt. 14:14) sick
--Toward the multitudes who were physically hungry (Mt. 15:32)
--Toward the blind (Mt. 20:34)
--Toward the unclean leper (Mk. 1:41)
--Toward the widow whose son died (Lk. 7:13-14)

Christ, being "meek and lowly in heart" (Mt. 11:29) is "touched with the feeling of our infirmities" (Heb. 4:15).

We are to be like our Savior (I Pet. 2:21) in that we feel the plight of others.

Jesus said “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” When you follow Christ, you will share His burden for souls.

Poem: “The Fishless Fisherman.”

II. Soul Harvesting is the Will of God (v. 34)

Jesus' only objective was to fulfill the will of His Father. His sole focus was to accomplish the desire of the One who sent Him. To do the Father's will and to complete the Father's plan was the ultimate fuel of Jesus' life on earth.

Is that what fuels us?

"Will of him. . . finish his work" - It's all about Him and what He wants. Life is not about us and our pet plans. Life is not about us and what we want. We are put on this planet and saved by His grace to accomplish His purpose and plan for our lives. Have you submitted to His plan and purpose?

III. Soul Harvesting is Urgent because the Fields are Ready (v. 35)

There were yet four months before the farmers of Israel would harvest their grain. However, the time for harvesting souls had already come.

As the people whom the Samaritan woman had told about Christ were approaching by the multitudes (v. 30), Christ called the disciples' attention to them as they came.

The **"fields**" are fields of people. This is why missionaries often refer to their place of service as the "mission field."

The world of people is described as being like a harvest field because people—like a field of grain—are:

1) Numerous (6.5 billion people on earth)
2) Precious
3) Require labor
4) Ready to perish of not harvested

"White" – ripe and ready to rot if not harvested

A continual harvest of souls waits to be reaped. Multitudes are searching and ready to hear God's Word. But "how will they hear without a preacher?"

IV. Soul Harvesting Results in <u>Rewards</u> for the Laborers (v. 36)

Just as one would reap a field and receive payment for the labor, so God has rewards coming to those who labor for Him.

Three definite results for the soulwinner:

1) **"Wages"** – Rewards (perhaps in the form of crowns to come at the Bema Seat Judgment (I Cor. 3:5-15)

2) **"Fruit unto eternal life" –** souls in heaven because of your labor

3) **"Joy"** - Psalm 126:6
He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

V. Soul Harvesting is Often <u>Not</u> as <u>Difficult</u> as you may think (v. 38)

"Other men labored" – The Old Testament prophets and John the Baptist paved the way for the Gospel.

Let's not make excuses for our lack of witnessing. Let's not say, "It's too hard" or "No one is interested."

Because salvation is God's work in people's hearts, it is not too hard; and because He has prepared many hearts and is drawing people to Himself, many are interested.

CONCLUSION: v. 39-42

v. 39
God uses saved sinners to reap for Him.

"Samaritan woman immediately shared her experience with others. Despite her reputation, many took her invitation and came out to meet Jesus. Perhaps there are sins in our past of which we're ashamed. But Christ changes us. As people see these changes, they become curious. Use these opportunities to introduce them to Christ." (Life Applic. Bible Note p. 1909).

v. 41
Many believe because someone pointed them to Christ (v. 39) and others believe because Christ directly spoke to them via His Word the Bible.

Salt is useless unless it come sin contact with food.
Light is useless unless it comes in contact with darkness.
A map is useless unless it comes in contact with someone who needs directions.
A compass is useless unless it comes in contact with someone who is lost.
A Christian is useless unless he comes in contact with the unsaved.

--Do you seek to make contact with the lost or avoid them?

--Do you know who your neighbors are?
- What are their names, first and last?
- What are their children's names?
- Where do they work?
- When was the last time they were in your home?
- When was the last time you were in theirs?

--Why do you think God gave you the job you have? Why did He set those people across your path? Are you reaching them?

Don't be a hibernating Christian! Don't be an isolationist! Don't live on your own island while the sea of humanity drifts to eternal ruin!

--Make a list, include your unsaved neighbors, fellow employees, class mates, relatives, etc.

--Pray for a chance to develop relationships with them

--Plan an occasion to get together - Be ready to sow the seed

To Harvest Souls for Christ, we must show the person that:

a. He is a **sinner** (Rom.3:10; 3:23)

b. He must pay a **price** for his sin (Rom.6:23) (Rev.21:8)

c. Jesus Christ **paid** the price for him (Rom.5:8) (I Pet.3:18)

d. God now offers him a free **gift** of eternal life (Rom.6:23b)
(Eph.2:8,9)

e. By **trusting** in (accepting) Christ, he will receive the gift of eternal life and be saved from sin and Hell.(Rev.3:20, Rom.10:13)