

Changing the Way You Think

Church and Culture (Part 7):

“The Harvest is Great, But the Workers are Few”

Purpose * Identity * Success * Beauty * Love * Hope

Matthew 9:35-38

³⁵ Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. ³⁸ So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; plead with him to send out workers into his fields.”

Are You a Harvest Worker?

Employee of the King

Which Best Describes You?

- (A) Harvest Employee of the King
- (B) Entrepreneur of Self
- (C) Retired
- (D) Happily Drawing Unemployment

Luke 9:57-62

⁵⁷ As they were going on the road, someone said to Him, “I will follow You wherever You go.” ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the sky *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” ⁵⁹ And He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.” ⁶⁰ But He said to him, “Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.” ⁶¹ Another also said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say goodbye to those at my home.” ⁶² But Jesus said to him, **“No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”**

- **Nothing Comes Before Kingdom Work**
 - Not Career or Wealth
 - Not Life’s Ordinary Sentiments and Obligations
 - Not Family

Luke 14:26-27, 33-35

²⁶ “If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple...none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions. ³⁴ **“Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? ³⁵ It is useless either for the soil or the manure pile, so it is thrown out. The one who has ears to hear, let him hear.”**

Building Relationships

Luke 4:18-19

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He anointed Me to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent Me to proclaim release to captives,
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set free those who are oppressed,
To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.”

- To Build Relationships, You Must Be Available, Present, Open, Listening, Sacrificing...
- To Be a Kingdom Employee Means You Show Up and for Work and Work Diligently

Carrying Burdens and Cleaning Messes

Galatians 6:1-3

Brothers *and* sisters, even if a person is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual are to restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you are not tempted as well. ² Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks that he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ But each one must examine his own work

Jude 21-23

Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. ²² And have mercy on some, who are doubting; ²³ save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.

1 Thess. 5:14

Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are fainthearted. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone.

I Need You. The Kingdom Needs You.

Galatians 6:8-9

Those who live only to satisfy their own desires will harvest decay and death...But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. ⁹ So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up...