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Doctrinal Studies Bible Church
PT: Ron Adema
Series: Harvest Time Ministry

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HARVEST TIME MINISTRY - INTRODUCTION (Harvest Time Ministry - 01)

Harvest Time Ministry is the theme of a one year ministry of our church (Sept to Sept). Harvest Time ministry is to reach the unchurched and unsaved of the greater Birmingham area.

Our theme comes from a verse in our lesson text:

(John 4:35) "Do not say (don't procrastinate), 'There are yet four months. And then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, lift up (epairo / a.a.impv) your eyes and look on (theaomai / a.a.impv) the fields, that they are white for harvest."

- **There are some** believers in our community whose church moved to another community and they are without a home church.
- **There are some** believers who have moved into our community who are looking for a Bible teaching church.
- **There are some** believers in our community who have children and are looking for a youth oriented church like DSBC.
- **There are unsaved** everywhere in our community who desire to be saved if someone could explain The Grace Gospel Jesus Christ to them - and then they will need a church to feed their soul the Word of God (1 Pet.2:2).

This lesson will study four aspects of HARVEST TIME MINISTRY.

- 1. We will outline the greater context of our lesson text because it will help us understand the problems as well as the successes of the Harvest Time Ministry.**

Jesus took His disciples to Samaria (God's Geographical Will) to teach them the harvest Time Ministry.

(Jn.4:1-6)	Campaign to Samaria
(Jn.4:7-26)	Conversation with Samaria woman
(Jn.4:27-39)	Conflict over Samaritans
(Jn.4:39-42)	Conversion of Samaritans

Samaria was always on the Lord's evangelism agenda.

(Acts 1:8) "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

We must be willing to get out of our comfort zones to be an effective ambassador of Christ (2 Cor.5:17-21).

(2 Cor.5:20) "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ; be reconciled to Christ."

2. Being prejudiced can be one of the great hindrances to an effective Harvest Time evangelism.

Jesus knew that religious Jews did not normally travel through Samaria because it could be a cause for uncleanness (Acts 10-11).

In (John 4), the disciples of Jesus reflect much of the religious prejudices of the Jews toward the spiritual unworthiness of the Samaritans.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus illustrates the bigger picture of Jewish prejudices by comparing a Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37).

What is interesting about this parable is that it came after the 70 disciples returned from a Harvest Time Ministry campaign (Luke 10:1-29). It shows how prejudices hinder great work in evangelism.

Jesus was trying to get His disciples in Harvest Time ministry:

(Gal.3:28) “There is neither Jew or Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

3. A casual attitude towards evangelism rather than as a life norm and standard of everyday living is another hindrance to effective Harvest Time Ministry.

(Jn.4:35a) “**Do not say** (don’t procrastinate), ‘there are yet four months, and then comes the harvest?’

The disciples left Jesus at the well and went to Sychar for food while on this mission trip. They walked right unto a mission field ripe for harvest yet because of a casual attitude as ambassadors for Christ they missed becoming a reaper or a sower on a great mission field.

4. There are two ministries to Harvest Time Ministry: Sower and Reaper. Both are very important to the mission fields of your life (John 4:34-38).

(Jn.4:34) “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.”

(Jn.4:35) “Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the field, that they are white ready for harvest.”

(Jn.4:36-37) “He who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.” “One sows and another reaps.”

(Jn.4:38) “I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor.”

What the disciples failed to do; the converted Samaritan woman succeeded to do - **she became a reaper** (Jn.4:28-29, 39).

As an ambassador for Christ, the Samaritan woman was God’s instrument in evangelizing the entire city of Sychar (4:39-42) (2 Cor.5:17-21).

The disciples of Jesus Christ were neither sowers nor reapers. **The greater question is - were they learners (disciples) of Christ?**