

Minister the Word with Christ

Scripture Reading: Matthew 9:35-38

For the most part, the gospels show Jesus talking to people who already had some knowledge and respect of the Scriptures. In our culture today we are seeing a large decrease of that. There are those who grew up in church and have their catechisms and Sunday school lessons somewhat in mind. But many today are critical of the concepts of the Bible. Worse yet, most of them are ignorant and confused about what the Bible really is saying. Religion, religious people, and secular thinking in public schools, media, and entertainment have helped to create this environment. The influence of the Pharisees, Sadducees, and the Roman Government / culture had their effect in Jesus' day, as well.

Two Analogies: Planting / Harvesting and Gathering Lost Sheep.

Jesus described fields that are "*white/ripe for harvest*" (John 4:34-35). Time is short and life is fragile (James 4:13-14). The weather is going to turn, and the harvest will be lost (Jeremiah 8:20-21). People need the gospel now (II Corinthians 6:2). Jesus also described the need for good soil for planting and harvesting. Some plowing, rock-picking, and weed removal is needed before we can sow good seed. There are lost sheep (people), out in the world, that need to be gathered to Christ. But Jesus warned us that there are also wolves. The rescue effort is urgent and dangerous.

Stay in contact with Jesus, the Lord of the harvest – Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23; 9:36-38.

See Psalm 126:5-6; Romans 15:18,30.

Stay in contact with Jesus, the Good and Great Shepherd – Luke 10:1-3, 17-20; 19:10.

See John 10:10-14; Hebrews 13:20-21 cp. Matthew 18:11-14.

Stay in contact with Jesus, the vine – John 15:1-9.

His love and His Word will make us fruitful branches. See II Corinthians 5:14-15; John 8:30-32, 36; Philippians 1:11; 4:13.