

Surrounded by Harvest!

Do you not say, 'There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest'?
Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are
already white for harvest! John 4:35 NKJV

And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that
both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.
John 4:36 NKJV

For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' John 4:37 NKJV
I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have
labored, and you have entered into their labors." John 4:38 NKJV

It is easy to think like the disciples thought, "Well, we've got four more months and *then* the harvest will be here." As believers, we tend to try to control and predict the harvests of our life. But the Kingdom is not that way! Jesus said the harvest is *now*!

The answer to your prayer is now. There is always another heart that is ready to receive the good news of the Savior now. There is someone today crying for the answer to their problem now. There is someone right now who is ready to receive the Word of God for themselves. But we must have eyes to see them and ears to hear their cry.

This is Finally Free weekend. We are in the midst of harvesting right now! We are reaping, we are gathering fruit together. It's not a lot of work but it is work! It takes time, effort, money and most important of all, a pure heart to touch people's lives with the love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. When harvesting comes everything else takes less priority for a time. Reaping a harvest requires a lot of effort. No matter what the harvest may be, you only have a limited window to gather the harvest out of the field and into some storage facility that the fruit might be preserved. When harvest comes, it takes priority! Out of the harvest comes the provision for the year and the seed for the next harvest! Jesus said the ones who reap, those who are diligent in the field will receive a 'wage'. Brothers and sisters, there is a 'wage' waiting for us as we lead someone to Christ. These are eternal things!

Jesus went on to say that we are reaping for what we have not labored. We continue where the previous generation left off! We are not taking from someone else's field – we have inherited the field! Be bold in your witness! Be bold in your testimony! Even though you might not feel like you have done very much, that's ok! Someone else has gone before you and poured out everything they had with no results to be seen! So that now, the harvest of their efforts might be reaped through our efforts! Let us not disappoint those who have gone before us. Let us receive the harvest!

Harvests don't come as a finished product. The harvest never comes prepared. The harvest never is prepackaged! But the harvest is **ready**! Gathering the harvest is only the beginning. God has designed the local church, the body of Christ, for this very purpose! Let's rejoice together in the harvest that surrounds us!

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