

WHAT DID JESUS MEAN BY *The Harvest Is Plentiful?*

In Matthew 9, we find Jesus traveling through all the towns and villages, proclaiming the good news, teaching, and healing. In verse 36, we see Jesus feeling compassion toward the crowds of people. He was burdened by the massive spiritual and physical needs of the people around Him.



The Harvest is *Plentiful*

"The harvest is plentiful, but the Laborers are few."

—Matthew 9:37

There are so many people with so many needs. During Jesus' earthly ministry, His divine ability to be in any place at any time was restricted. The vast number of people and all of their needs were immense. There is so much work to be done. The harvest is plentiful!

Spiritually speaking, nothing has changed from the days of Jesus. The harvest Jesus spoke about is still just as plentiful as it was 2,000 years ago. There are people in desperate need of Jesus everywhere we step foot. The needs only increase as you take note of all the places where you commonly go. Roughly 78% of Jesus' ministry was spent in ordinary, everyday places. Think of all the ordinary places you regularly go where there are people who need Jesus.

When we start thinking in terms of the way Jesus did ministry, our eyes are opened up to the massiveness of the spiritual harvest all around us. Jesus did not restrict His care for people based on their characteristics or beliefs. No, He crossed all kinds of barriers.

- Social
- Political
- Economic
- Geographic

For Jesus, the harvest had no restrictions, which means it was huge. And the same holds true today.

Meet the *Great Harvest* Need

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field. Go! I am sending you..."

—Luke 10: 2-3

When it comes to meeting the great harvest needs, the answer Jesus reveals is to invest a lot in just a few. It seems counterintuitive! Wouldn't you want as many people as possible to hear the message? Of course! And that's exactly what Jesus accomplished through the few.

You see when you preach to large crowds, you are limited by the math of addition. People can only be impacted or hear from you. When you invest a lot in just a few and train them to be like you, you change that from addition to multiplication. Instead of there being only one laborer trying to reap the harvest, now there are 13, and then there are 85, and soon 120. Then the number just keeps growing. Multiplication is the key to meeting the great harvest needs of the world around us.



In fact...

- If you train just one person per year to follow Jesus and share Him with others
- That newly trained person does the same
- The new person they train does the same
- And so on...

We will be able to reach the whole world in just 34 years or 34 spiritual generations. That's the power of multiplication.

IT ALLOWS US TO

make disciples of all nations.