

# G R A C E

Reformed Baptist Church

Soli    ♦    Deo    ♦    Gloria

## THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

### Sermon Notes

#### *Reaping the Harvest*

John 4:35-42

February 6, 2005

#### Verse 34

- Jesus came to accomplish the Father's *work*
  - His *work* was the salvation of the world

#### Verse 35

- The Gezer Calendar and the Dead Sea Scrolls suggest that there was four months between the sprouting of seeds and the harvest ripening
- There is evidence that the Ancient Near Eastern agricultural year was divided into six two month periods: (1) seedtime, (2) winter, (3) spring, (4) harvest, (5) summer, and (6) the time of extreme heat.
- Thus four months passed between the end of seedtime and the beginning of the harvest.
  - Here, Jesus' words would mean: "You always say, 'Four months from sowing to harvest' – but look: the seed has newly been sown and here is the harvest already!" (referring to the approach of the people of Sychar)
- "Jesus at this juncture is simply pointing out that by ordinary reckoning there are four months remaining until harvest, but in the salvation-historical plane the harvest has already begun. He himself is engaged in that harvest; that is part and parcel of the work the Father gave him to do." D.A. Carson
- **The work has been done!**

#### Verse 36

- *Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life*

- In other words, the reaper is not merely standing by waiting for the harvest – He is actively reaping
- The fruit is those who have been saved – ETERNALLY
- The *sower and reaper rejoice together*
  - This is a fulfillment of **Amos 9:13**:
    - “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when the plowman shall overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed;”
      - This imagery is of never-ending fruitfulness and prosperity
- This verse helps answer the question, “Why do we evangelize?”
  - 1. Obedience**
    - See John 4:34
  - 2. We are the means God has chosen to save His people.**
  - 3. It is a joy and a privilege!**

### Verse 37

- Sowing was difficult work; however, reaping, although difficult, was joyful (Psalm 126:5-6)
- However, both Sowing and Reaping are essential in the agricultural process
  - Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-9:
 

<sup>1</sup>Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. <sup>3</sup>You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere men?

<sup>5</sup>What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. <sup>6</sup>I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. <sup>7</sup>So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. <sup>8</sup>The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. <sup>9</sup>For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

- Why is it so difficult to be a sower as opposed to a reaper?
  - We, as humans, want to see the RESULTS of our work!
    - We find our *satisfaction* in our *results*.
    - If we are to be like Christ, where should we derive our satisfaction?
      - How does this verse relate back to John 4:34?

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- The Lives of **John Wycliffe, Jan (John) Hus, and Martin Luther**

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### Verse 38

- It is very likely that, here, Jesus is referring to the ministry of John the Baptist. He was the last of the Old Testament Prophets, the men of God who had prepared the way for the Messiah. They had sown the seed, and now the Apostles were the ones to reap the reward.
- “Christians who have meditated on the Fourth Gospel as a whole find it difficult not to think of Jesus as the one who has done ‘the hard work’ [What is “the hard work”? See 4:34]; for he is not only the sower, but the seed, the grain of wheat that falls into the ground and dies, bearing great fruit (12:24).” D.A. Carson

### Verse 39

- What does it mean here, that the Samaritans believed *in Him*?
  - Read John 2:23-24
    - <sup>23</sup>Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name. <sup>24</sup>But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men.
- The Samaritan woman’s witness reveals the Samaritan expectation of the Messiah (or Taheb). “Samaritans pictured the Taheb as the one who would reveal the truth, in line with his role as the ultimate prophet.”

- Was it enough for the Samaritans to believe that Jesus was the Taheb, the Prophet?

- Is our testimony today similar to the Samaritan woman's?

- Is our testimony as powerful?

- Why or why not?

- Read Ephesians 2:1

- Were the Samaritans saved because of her testimony?
- Why is this important?

- “[Regeneration] is instantaneous and is accomplished solely by the power of the Holy Spirit **through the instrumentality of the Word of God** when the repentant sinner, as enabled by the Holy Spirit, responds in faith to the divine provision of salvation.”  
*Doctrinal Statement, Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, California*

- What is absolutely necessary for salvation?

- “for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.”  
1 Peter 1:23

- What is not?
- NOTE: It is possible that the “city of Samaria” where Philip evangelized, several years later, in Acts 8:4-8 was Sychar. If so, then Philip also reaped the reward of the labor of others.

#### Verses 40 – 42

- Jesus remained with the Samaritans two days
- *Many more believed because of His word*
  - In addition to those who believed because of the Samaritan woman's testimony

- *And they were saying to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world.”* (bold emphasis added)

- “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”  
Romans 10:17

- Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world

- The phrase “the Savior of the world” appears in the New Testament only one other time, in 1 John 4:14:

<sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

- What **must** the *world* mean here?

### **Crown Him With Many Crowns**

Words by Matthew Bridges (1800-1894) and Godfrey Thring (1823-1903)

#### *Verse 4*

Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed over the grave,  
And rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save.  
His glories now we sing, Who died, and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.