



***What gets the Lord Jesus talking about sending the disciples to harvest?*** Pastor leads his family in today’s “Hopewell @Home” passage. John 4:34–42 prepares us for the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord’s Day. In these nine verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that for the sake of the Father Who sent Him and of those whom He came to save, the Lord Jesus was eager to gather in a harvest of redeemed sinners. And we should reflect that eagerness both for our part in it and His.

**Tuesday, March 15, 2022 ▪ John 4:34–42**

Questions from the Scripture text: Who is speaking in v34? What two things are His “food”? What does he tell them not to say (v35)? What does he tell them to do instead? What are they to notice about the fields? What does the reaper receive (v36)? What kind of fruit does he gather? What do the sower and reaper do together? What saying comes true in this harvest (v37)? What did Jesus send them to do (v38)? For what kind of harvest? What have others done? What have the apostles done? Who believed in Him (v39)? Why? What did she say? Who came to Him in v40? What did they urge? What did Jesus do? What did many more do (v41)? To whom do they speak in v42? What do they do now? What isn’t the reason they do? What have they themselves done? What do they know about Jesus?

Next week’s Call to Worship, Prayer for Help, and first song all come from John 4:34–42 so that we will see that we are singing God’s thoughts after Him with *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*.

It’s a humbling thing to be a farmer. You do what you know to do, but so much depends upon pure Providence. Jesus was content to receive His food in due season. We see that in the first temptation, in which after going hungry for forty days, He was content with the words that proceed out of the mouth of God.

Here, His food was whatever His Father gave Him to do. He takes to it with relish, like sitting down to a good meal, because it is the goodness of His Father.

Marvelously, Jesus invites His disciples to reap the harvest with Him. This teaches us that it is God that gives salvation. The Father, Son, and Spirit do their great saving work, their labors. And, when the Lord gives us to participate in others coming to Him, He brings us into His own labors and gives us to gather fruit for eternal life!

Food harvest time was a time of great thanksgiving and rejoicing over God’s goodness. How much more is the joy of participating in His bringing others to Himself! And the joy of Christ’s soon return, having gathered to Himself all Who are His!

But this participation is a joy even more because of fellowship with Jesus and dependence upon Jesus than any pleasure we might get from our own part in it. This woman who had so quickly learned to love the Christ would not have been disappointed by the results of vv40–42.

Yes, she had the privilege of pointing them to the Lord and being used to lead them to the Lord. But as our brothers and sisters come to know Him for Himself and from Himself, we rejoice all the more as we grow in our appreciation for the fact that it was He Who has using us all along.

We rejoice to hear them say “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.” Those whom He is redeeming are His harvest, and whatever part we can have is a joy in the fact that we get to do that part in fellowship with Him, and that even our part depends entirely upon Him.

**What is Christ’s harvest? How are you part of it? How are you part of the harvesting?**

*Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for giving us life and breath and every good thing in this life. And thank You all the more for purchasing us by Your blood, retrieving us from our sin, and growing us in grace. Forgive us for when we fail to be grateful even for earthly blessings, let alone for eternal blessings. And make us to be glad servants as we do whatever part You have blessed us to have in Your own work, which we ask in Your Name, AMEN!!*

**Suggested songs: ARP145C “The Eyes of All Are Turned to You” or TPH552 “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”**

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**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)**

John 4 verses 34 through 42. These are God's words. Jesus said to them, my food is to do. The will of him who sent me and to finish his work. 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, and he who reaps receives his wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life.

So that both he who sews and he who reaps they rejoice together, four in this the saying is true, one so's. And another reaps I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored others have labored and you have entered into their labors and many of the Samaritans of that city believed in him because of the word of the woman who testified, he told me all that I ever did.

So when the Samaritans had come to him, they urged him to say, with stay with them, and he stayed there, two days and many more believed because of his own word, Then they said to the woman. Now, we believe not because of what you said For, we ourselves have heard him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.

So far the reading of God's inspired and inerrant work.

So this passage follows immediately upon the disciples being surprised that Jesus is an interested in the bread that they bring back from town. And they're wondering if anyone brought him something to eat and our passage begins by saying my food is to do the will of him who sent me.

And then he talks about harvesting not green, but people. So he goes immediately from my food is to do. The will of him who sent me and to finish his work to say, Do you not say there are still four months and then comes to harvest Behold? I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields for, they are already white for harvest.

The implication here is that it is always a good time to speak of Christ and who he is and what he came to do and atoning for our sin and gaining victory as our king. I said the fact that he offered himself as a sacrifice for us as priests, and that now he's in the business of or in the activity of subduing, people to himself, by his spirit.

Bringing them to to faith in himself and he does so by his word. And not only does he bring us to faith by his word, but he also instructs us and sanctifies us by his words, so that he finishes his work as a prophet and a priest. And as a king and the disciples had gone to town to get bread, but there was a much more important harvest much more important food that the Lord Jesus was after.

And so he says, he who reaps receives wages and gathers fruit for eternal life and then a couple verses later, I sent you to reap for the that for which you have not labored others have labored and you have entered into their labors. It's very interesting analogy to their errand that he sent them to town for, you know, they would have the money bag.

We know from other places that they were largely financed by some, some wealthy women who had provided for them from their means and perhaps, by the sale of the great catch of fish, at the beginning of the, some of their disciples discipleship. But they would go get bread even though they were no longer laboring, but now it's going to be labor.

He said that he would make them fishers of men, but we can't produce spiritual fruit in people. We are not the ones who do the work of giving them life and bringing them to faith. We certainly weren't the ones who did the work of atoning for them on the cross and providing righteousness.

Jesus obeying is counted for us as our righteousness and the Holy Spirit. Now gives the life of Christ. Holy Spirit, whom the Lord, Jesus word out. And so, it's it's very much like being sent on an errand with somebody else's money. And yet he says, even if he gives us to reap, when he is the one who is doing all of the work that he rewards us, even for what he empowers and he enables to do.

So there's a great privilege in ministering to others and telling them about Jesus and seeing him. Use that to bring them to himself and there's a great pleasure in seeing them be more impressed with him, then they were with you or with your story.

She had gone and said, verse 29, he told me all that I ever did and many of the Samaritans believed in him, because of her testimony, which is pretty amazing because she was woman of bad reputation. She was living with one who wasn't her husband and all of her other husbands.

Had either died or divorced. Her and she would be seen at very best as horrible luck and immoral but probably completely undesirable damage goods and immoral. But God gave her words effect with them but

she would have great pleasure in versus 40 to 42 when he stays with them.

Today's, and many more believe and then they come. And they say now we believe not because of what you said for, we ourselves have heard him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world. When when we tell others about the Lord, or we speak to them from his word, when mom and I speak to you from the Bible, when I minister to people are great, desire is that you would know him yourself that as you read and hear and understand the Bible.

The spirit would minister to you. The words of the Lord Jesus in the scripture and that you would know him in a way that wasn't that isn't mediated by us. You wouldn't just know him as Dad's God and mom's God but that you would know him as your own.

God, It's your own Savior. Your own redeemer. Your own king. And you know, the woman wouldn't be disappointed to find out that they were more serious about their own immediate interaction with the Lord Jesus. And we should want first of all ourselves and then others to be Christ's own harvest and that he who began a good work in it, and us would complete that work in his day and the day of Christ.

Jesus and having brought us to faith having sanctified us having glorified us that he would get all that. He had desired for us from before the world began, all that he earned for us and his life and death. All that was affirmed that he had secured by his resurrection.

That's all his work. And one of the things he's given us, when we work hard and get food and enjoy food, is to see A that he is the one who has to make all of that effective, not none of our work produces, even physical food, otherwise. But be that it's a small picture of him doing work to take us for his harvest because he treasures us above all the rest of the creation.

We're the ones he made in his own image, We're the ones whose form he took. In order to save us we're the ones whom he represented where the ones whom whose sins. He took up on himself so that he could propitiate so that he could have told. So you know, the Lord Jesus as a man in his, in his incarnation and his flesh, He loves food he enjoys food.

It's a good gift of God. The Bible says it's a sin to call evil. What God calls. Good. He receives it with thankfulness, but he loves this infinitely more. We're the Harvest that he came for and those whom he is going to save, are the harvest whom he came for those for whom he died.

And so we should desire for him to get that harvest and we should be eager to have whatever part we can have in Christ. Getting the harvest for what you came. Let's pray.

Father, it's late and I feel like I talked in circles a little bit but this passage is wonderful. And what it shows about your love for us, your son's love for us and what he came to do and his pleasure in it. That's wonderful. So we pray that your spirit would help us to see and know and remember those things and that you would form in our hearts gratitude like Christ's for every good thing.

But especially for the work of salvation that you're doing and gathering to yourself and sanctifying and perfecting for yourself. Those for whom Christ. Died that he might come again when the how long? Oh Lord, from the fifth seal in Revelation, 6 is finally answered with no longer even. So, Lord quickly, come we ask and your name Lord Jesus.

Amen.