

## Harvesting For The Father

Remember the analogy of the Kingdom of God being much like a family business. Remember that all of the sons and daughters have work to do in the "family business" of seeking and saving the lost.

The whole world belongs to the Father. No matter where you live geographically, you are still on the "family farm."

**Psalms 24:1 The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.**

No matter where you live on earth, your job is still to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." As long as you do that, the Father has promised to meet all of your needs.

**Matthew 6:31-33 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (32) (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. (33) But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**

Let's say you were alive in the first century after Christ, in the city of Corinth in the nation of Greece. The Father has sent out a letter to all of the "family" around the world. There is severe persecution of the Christians in Jerusalem. People are being put on trial and some are being executed for their faith in Christ. Many of them have had their property and money confiscated by the government there. The Christians are being discriminated against and are not allowed to have jobs or businesses. And now, on top of that, there is a famine in the land. If something is not done soon, many will die. The Father is asking for all of the family to join together and send finances to help these Jewish Christians.

When you open and read this letter, let me ask you, is the first thing on your mind ... how do I get my needs met? No, the first thing on your mind is how to meet the needs of these people. The Father wants these lives saved. Your first thought is the same as your Father's. This is about a harvest of lives for your Father. It has

nothing to do with your own personal profit ... at all. There are instructions and reminders in the letter.

**2 Corinthians 9:6-15 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.**

For teaching purposes, let's say there are ten thousand lives at risk in Jerusalem. (I'm just picking a number to make an example.) Let's say, for every dollar you give, a life will be saved. If you sow ten dollars, you will reap ten lives for the Father. If you sow 100 dollars, you will reap 100 lives for the Father. This is not rocket science. This is not hard to understand.

MOTIVE OF HEART IS EVERYTHING TO UNDERSTANDING THIS PASSAGE. IS YOUR MIND ON YOU AND YOUR NEEDS? OR IS YOUR MIND ON THE FATHER AND THE HARVEST HE WANTS BY MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE PERSECUTED PEOPLE?

**"When you give, if you have you on your mind ... there isn't any lower kind."  
– Pastor Dave Roberson**

**(7) Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.**

GOD IS LEAVING IT UP TO YOU HOW MUCH TO GIVE. He wants "you" to "purpose in your heart" how much to give. He does not want you to give just because you think you have to. He does not want you to give grudgingly, feeling sad and sorry for yourself that have to give it. If you feel that way, God is saying ... JUST KEEP IT! This is an opportunity for mature sons and daughters, not selfish little children. Let the children play with their toys. This mission is for adults in the kingdom of God.

**(8) And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:**

Never forget your provision is by God's grace. You dine at the Father's table, no matter where you live, no matter the job, occupation, or business you might be running. The Father is your provider ... by the grace purchased for you by the suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ. Never forget the foundation of all New Testament prosperity:

**2 Corinthians 8:9** For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Why does God cause an increase of His grace to abound to you so that you can always abound to every good work? FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP of what He has already provided for you.

**Luke 16:10** He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

**(9)** (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.

So ... have you? Have you been faithful to give to the poor? Has the Father found you faithful when He has presented opportunities like this to you in the past? Has He found you to be faithful in little so He can trust you with much? Sadly, increase of finances for many Christians simply means more toys and vacation homes. Let the children play. It is fine. But this increase of grace for giving is for adults, not children.

**(10)** Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

This verse is stating the obvious ... God is HE who gives seed to the sower. God is HE who provides bread for us to eat. Only God can make seeds grow. Only God can increase the fruits of our righteousness. Never forget how the LORD multiplied the loaves and fishes. He has not forgotten how to do that. You may honestly look at your finances and say, "I only have two dollars I can give to help those people." Don't focus on the two dollars. Focus on Him who multiplies the loaves and fishes. You have no idea what He can do with what you place your little loaves and fishes in His hands.

**2 Corinthians 9:10** And [*God*] Who provides seed for the sower and bread for eating will also provide and multiply your [resources for] sowing and increase the fruits of your righteousness [*which manifests itself in active goodness, kindness, and charity*]. AMPC

**He multiplies your resources for sowing.** This reinforces the principle stated above. If He finds you faithful in little, He will give you more. And if He finds you faithful with more, He will trust you with even more. STEWARDSHIP is the key.

**(11) Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.**

Through faithful stewardship and His promotions regarding how much He trusts you to steward for the kingdom of God, you can come to the place of "all bountifulness" ... meaning ... you will have enough to give into every good work that the Father makes you aware of. What a life that would be. I have not arrived there. There is so much more Sue and I would like to give. The key is to be found faithful at the level where we are now.

**This "thanksgiving to God" is part of the harvest for the Father.** Remember, this is happening in the first few decades of Christianity. These Jewish Christians have been suffering terrible persecution, and now a famine is on top of that. The Father wants them to know He has not abandoned them. The praise is to go to Him, not us. They need to know HE IS PROVIDING FOR THEM. It will strengthen their faith. This THANKSGIVING is part of the harvest for the Father.

**(12) For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;**

Your giving is "supplying the needs of the saints." **This is part of the harvest for the Father. FATHERS PROVIDE FOR THEIR CHILDREN.** The Father knows the persecutions they are suffering. He knows their goods are being confiscated. He knows they are being discriminated against. He knows they are being tried, jailed, and some are even being executed. He knows the famine is adding even more difficulty on top of the persecution. **THE FATHER WANTS THEIR NEEDS TO BE MET.**

Why do we support orphanages? **GOD WANTS THOSE KIDS TO BE LOVED, HOUSED, FED, CLOTHED, AND TRAINED UP IN THE WAYS OF GOD.** We do it to provide a harvest for the Father. Same with supporting elderly widows.

**James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.**

**(13) Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;**

Notice they will glorify God for your "professed subjection" unto the gospel of Christ. In the first century, there was still much skepticism among many Jewish believers that Gentile people could truly be saved by God. They had "heard" that such was the case, but now this gift would "show" them such is the case.

**James 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.**

Especially to the Jewish mind, it is very persuasive when you "put your money where your mouth is." We have heard you Gentiles "say" you are Christians. But now we "see" you are Christians by your giving.

**This is very much part of the harvest for the Father** because He was breaking down the wall of partition that existed at the time between the Jewish and Gentile believers. He wanted them to understand ... they were all His children ... they were all in the same family.

**(14) And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you. (15) Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.**

Now these Jewish Christians see the grace of God in you, and they will accept you as brothers and sisters in Christ, and they will be praying for you too.

Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift ... Jesus Christ!