

THE HARVEST IS NOW

John 4:34-35

³⁴Jesus said to them, My food (nourishment) is to do the will (pleasure) of Him Who sent Me and to accomplish and completely finish His work.³⁵Do you not say, It is still four months until harvest time comes? Look! I tell you, raise your eyes and observe the fields and see how they are already white for harvesting.

Church it is harvest time - not some time in the future but right now. Jesus wants us to open our eyes and take a good look.

4 months away is a long time away for an annual crop. Delay in harvesting the crop when it becomes ripe can result in it going to waste. You stop everything else to complete the harvest.

Reason why harvest is now ripe?

Things that are happening & current NZ condition -

Living in a time when people are in need and crying out because of their various struggles.

Hardships are key to the move of the spirit - because when everything is going well people forget God, but whenever times are tough people cry out. This story is repeated over and over through the Bible. And today's society is no different. Mankind is so often proud and arrogant until everything falls apart, then they cry out for someone to help.

And then God because of His unchanging love for His people hears their cry and sends a deliverer. The ultimate deliverer being Jesus. The starting point of this journey could be through CAP Money. Brian Allen and his CAP team have a waiting list of families wanting help. And since they have started to minister into these needs they have realised just how ready the harvest is. Brian has found people literally waiting at the door for his knock, they are so desperate. Huge debt burdens lifted, marriages restored and new meaning established for the whole family. In July we will be able to double our case load.

Jesus said my food is to do the will of the one who sent me, meaning His Father in heaven. Doing God's will was life to Him, as food is life to the physical body - doing the will of God became Jesus total reason for living. Just as it should be our reason to live.

With baptism we made a statement of dying to our own desires and wants as we were buried in the water. When raised up out of the water a statement of no longer living for self but Christ. Allowing Him to control and lead our life. Gal 2:20

In week have heard of groups experiencing an amazing release in the Holy Spirit as they prayed, heard of broken relationships being restored, increasing number of opportunities to minister. Challenge is being able to keep up.

We are on a mission

Link the following 4 passages of scripture

Matt 28:18-20 - Matt 8:5-13 & v18 & 23-27 - Matt 6:9-13 - Exod 17:8-16

1 - Matt 28:18-20

Jesus appeared to the disciples and commissioned them to evangelise the entire world.

As the Father had sent Jesus, now Jesus was sending us John 17:18 & 20:21 Luke 4:18-19 - a frightening overwhelming task, until we grasp the significance of what Jesus said. "All authority in Heaven and Earth has been given to me - therefore go." Go in My authority. And I will be with you to the end of the age. Meaning this word of command is currently active and He is still with us to complete His commission.

Principle - We take on the authority of the one we submit too.

Greater the authority we submit too - greater the power we carry to minister.

2 - Matt 8:5-13 & v18 & 23-27 The Centurion Story

The centurion because of his military mindset had no problem in grasping this concept - therefore he said to Jesus **You just speak the word and my sick servant will be healed**

He knew what it was to have the might of Rome backing him, so when he gave an order he expected action. He must have heard that Jesus was supernaturally healing people, therefore understood that Jesus had divine authority.

But the disciples struggled to understand the concept of the authority principle. Jesus **ordered them to cross over to the other side**. v18. But what did the disciples do? First they appeared reluctant to even go, and then they focused on the storm rather than the command Jesus gave. That is why Jesus rebuked them for their unbelief.

3 - Matt 6:9-13 Lord's Prayer is list of headings

- 1 **Our Father in Heaven** - is all about positioning. God is in Heaven we are on earth, meaning coming under His authority.
- 2 **Thy Kingdom come** - is all about focus and commissioning. It is lining our lives up with God's purpose and Kingdom, putting aside our own desires and wants.
- 3 **Give us this day** - releasing of resources for the work of God's Kingdom.
- 4 **Forgive us our debts** as we also forgive - heart attitude of humility & forgiveness.
- 5 **Deliver us from evil** - staying on task & not being deviated off.
- 6 **Thine is the Kingdom, Power & Glory** - brings us back to the starting point of submission.

Question is - "are we submitted to Jesus' authority with our whole life being lived for this purpose?"

Jesus is teaching life is all about establishing God's Kingdom - we have been commissioned.

4 - Exod 17:17:8-16

Amazing example of spiritual warfare.

Israel were being attacked by the Amalekites, descendants of Esau. A people that had no fear of God, who picked on the weak and needy that trailed at the rear. Deu 25:17-19

They depicted the kingdom of darkness.

So Moses sent Joshua with the army to fight them, while he went up on a hill and stood holding up his staff, the symbol of authority. He knew this was vital to releasing God's power in fighting the battle. I'm convinced his mind was focused on God who gives him the victory.
V15

While he maintained this position Joshua prevailed, but when he grew weary the Amalekites started to dominate. Due to the length of the battle tiredness resulted in his hands dropping. Possibly even thoughts of giving up. It required the support of his two friends to maintain his stand of faith. And see the battle won. So many lessons in this passage alone.

We are also in a battle, not against flesh and blood but against spiritual powers of wickedness. Eph 6:10

Lets put these 4 passages together.

Jesus has all authority in Heaven and Earth - He has spoken the word - Go into all the world and preach the gospel, make disciples and teach them all that you know.

Lesson from the Centurion is - this word carries power that nothing can stop

Lesson from Lord's Prayer is - this word is to see God's kingdom established on earth as in heaven.

Lesson from Moses - we are going to take this stand until Jesus word is fulfilled and battle is won.

My Vision from 1993 - Sky Rocket

As the church became united in the Spirit, main centre column - there would be an explosion of a wide variety of new ministries released. Ministries that took all kinds of unexpected twists, opening doors into areas we had not ministered into before. These new ministries would constantly crossover with other ministries. Today we are seeing it happen.

Vicki Barrett's DVD - Vicki saw a need and started to do something for it. Began in a little way and the ministry has grown, and connected into other GCC ministries. Only God knows what twist it could take next.

A list of all the current Ministries and how you can help will be posted on the GCC website with who to contact if you want more info

Challenge today is that the whole church unites together - Jesus has spoken the word, and given us authority - will we go into our community?