

A Church for the Whole Family Part 5: The Value of Working Together

John 4:31-38 (NIV)

Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something."

³²*But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about."*

³³*Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?"*

³⁴*"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. ³⁵Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. ³⁶Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. ³⁷Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. ³⁸I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."*

1. JESUS UNDERSTOOD HIS PURPOSE AND WAS OBEDIENT.

v. 34 "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."

- He understood who was in charge.
- He understood the plan.
- He understood the necessity of obedience.

2. THE GREATEST DETERANT TO EVANGELISM IS PROCRASTINATION.

v. 35a Do you not say, "Four months more and then the harvest?"

- The enemy wants us to believe we have plenty of time.
- The urgency of evangelism requires work long before the harvest comes.
- Effective evangelism requires that we see the possibilities.

v. 35b "...I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."

3. WHEN WE WORK AS A FAMILY, WE SHARE IN THE RESULTS.

vv. 36-38 "Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

- Those who harvest are partners with those who plant seeds.
- Those who plant and harvest are partners with the owner.
- Success is measured by obedience not the harvest.

Jesus understood that He came to reap the harvest when the time was right. As His family, we have the opportunity to share in the harvest of souls Jesus wants to take with Him to Heaven.