

From the West Meadow  
Pastor Wes Higgins

When talking about His followers, Jesus said they will do even greater works than He did (John 14:12). What are these works? What should we as Christ-following churches be doing? When Jesus talks about the works His disciples will do, He often speaks in terms of a harvest.

The Bible talks about two great harvests: the spring, or first fruits harvest, and the fall's great harvest of ingathering. (Exodus 23:16) As Christians, we are referred to as first fruits, having the first fruits of the Spirit in Romans 8:23; being the first fruits of His creation in James 1:18; in Revelation 14:4, "...being first fruits to God and to the Lamb."

Jesus talks specifically about the two harvests, recorded in John 4:34-38, and about what our job is in relation to the harvest. Jesus says, basically, "Don't say the harvest is still four months away. That's the fall ingathering. Look around you—the fields are already white for harvest, now." The spring harvest was in full swing at that time.

What Jesus is saying in a spiritual sense is that the laborers of the harvest are made up from the spring harvest. They are the first fruits. Our job as first fruits is to continue harvesting more first fruits while the spring harvest is still being brought in, "That both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together." (John 4:36)

"I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors." (verse 38) Jesus said, "(I have come) to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work." (verse 34) And He said we will do greater works.

At the tail end of Matthew 9, Jesus in His compassion for the multitudes talks of the need for more laborers in the harvest. This chapter tells of the kind of works He did preaching the good news of God's Kingdom, healing sickness and disease. In chapter 10, we see the command to His followers to do greater works: to go into the cities and to preach the Kingdom, to heal the sick, to cleanse lepers, to raise the dead and cast out demons. This is the work of His laborers.

At the end of His earthly stay, Jesus left us these instructions: go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them, and teaching them to observe all His commandments. (Matthew 28:19-20) It's a tall order we've been given, a big job. God does not expect us to sit around doing nothing!

We have been included in the first fruits harvest to labor in the continuing harvest of more first fruits. Our job may be planting, or watering, or tending, or harvesting. Whatever it is, we should do it with all our might. And in the end we will receive both wages, and the gift of eternal life. (John 4:36) Right now is the spring harvest of first fruits. When Jesus returns He will begin the fall harvest, the great harvest of ingathering.

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you may abound in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8)

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