

Harvesters

Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Therefore plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.” What a heroic sounding job! What do you picture when I say harvester? I spend most of my time with a 2 year old and the overactive imagination may have rubbed off a little—so I’m picturing me, in overalls of course with a good tan, carrying a scythe and running in slow motions through fields with purple buds everywhere, harvesting left and right as a hero of the fields! But I read the whole chapter this morning in Matthew and it painted quite a different picture.

Jesus had just called a sinful tax collector into his seemingly random, very regular little band of 12 And almost immediately, they are swarmed with people. Jesus was doing some teaching, when he was interrupted by an official whose daughter had just died, and then, before he is even to the house to heal the little girl, a women who had been bleeding for over a decade touches Jesus’ cloak in desperation. After compassionately healing the women and the girl, Jesus is walking out of the official’s house and begins to be followed by 2 equally desperate blind men – who Jesus heals on the spot. Just as they were leaving there, a demon possessed man is brought to Him. It was non stop! And it was right after this that Jesus says with great compassion about these desperate, lost sheep... The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. And then... he sends out his little ragamuffin band of 12 (including the tax collector who has JUST joined them) into Israel. He gave them authority to heal and cast out demons, but also tells them to go out as “sheep among wolves”, and not to even bring a change of clothes or extra money. Not such a glorious job. I feel overwhelmed on their behalf. Certainly no slow motions frolicking in sight. But it is also very clear that the harvesters are not the focus, nor is this mess of a harvest – but the Lord of the Harvest.

As our little ragamuffin family is being sent out in a few weeks (June 11th), I am aware of how normal we are and in some ways, how unprepared. The task is big, messy, overwhelming, and full of desperate people like us. But we are depending on the most compassionate Lord of the Harvest, who is inviting us to share in this mess with His authority, compassion, power to heal and above all – His love.

As far as news from our corner of the field, well **borders have opened after Covid**, and **2 new little families of harvesters have recently moved** there. In 2 other cities that have no church (or house church gatherings), **new teams have formed** with an excitement to serve the ripe, sometimes overwhelming fields! In addition to this, **our team leaders are reentering this summer** to make decisions about where and when to reopen the school. Much wisdom is needed for the many decisions they will be making! And our little family is packing up our apartment, filling our amazon cart with travel goods and praying that He would use us normal, excited little followers, with His authority and His love, to a harvest messy, beautiful crop for His glory.

Please pray for the new families settling in there, for our family as we begin to transition, and as Jesus said “please with the Lord to send out more workers into His harvest!”