

# KINGDOM ADVANCING PRAYER

*Mark: 1:35 & Matt: 11: 11-12*

*From the desk of Elder Michael Scantlebury*

## Harvest Time

As I prepare to go into a series of teachings on “Jesus the Consummate Evangelist” where we will be looking at the “One on One” encounters that Jesus had in the Bible and seek to draw some life principles from them I thought it wise that I share this word with you all. The Lord is still very much interested in the souls of men and the Holy Spirit working through His Church is still the vehicle He uses to reach them with the gospel of the Kingdom!

### **Let us begin by looking at John 4: 27 – 38**

“And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?" The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him. In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' "I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors."

In order to truly reap the harvest this must be the core or center of our motivational desire. We must clearly understand that we are truly involved in “A Work” for and with Jesus.

This must produce a level of excitement in our spirits and it should drive us to the place of accuracy and a desire to finish His Will.

### **BELIEVE THAT THE HARVEST IS NOW!**

We cannot afford to put our minds into a futuristic mould. Now is the time, not in four months. Also remember we are also called to reap where we have not sowed, because it is a continuous work that was started long before our time.

### **Matthew 9: 35 – 38**

“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

In order to truly enter the harvest there must first be a vision of the reality of the world. Jesus saw the multitudes and was moved with compassion because He perceived their true condition, which was; that they were without leadership; and that they were frustrated and harassed.

As we pray and believe the Lord for the harvest in this territory and in the nations of the earth, we must understand the following:

- We must discern accurately the condition of our time [Matthew 16: 2 & 3 - “He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red'; and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.”]
- We must be convinced that these are the times of prophetic fulfillment as it was prophesied to Daniel [Daniel 2: 44 – “And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.”]
- We must respond as Jesus responded in His day, He was moved with compassion. The word compassion in the Greek means; “to be moved as to one’s inwards”. That gives us the indication of a deep spirit-centered commitment to care about the condition of a thing or a person.

It is from that premise Jesus goes on to declare that effective prayer should be made to the Father to send laborers into the harvest. The word send, is a very interesting word, it is the Greek word “ekballo”: - which is rendered; to drive out, expel, pluck, thrust, or pull with force towards. As we pray for the harvest we can expect that violent spiritual activity from God will take place, to “ekballo” laborers (and not idlers) into the harvest. Very few believers recognize that these end-times must be assaulted by a rampant church and in this light the laborers, regrettably are few.

Please note that the harvest represents two groups of people: - First it represents the multitudes of people in the nations of the earth to whom the gospel of the kingdom must be preached. But it also represents the cleansing of the kingdom of all things that offend [wrong mentalities and lifestyle Matt: 13: 41 – “The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness.”]

These are truly exciting and glorious days we are living in, it is truly the most favorable time for kingdom advance that the church has ever entered into. We must continue to rise and take our place in the plan and purpose of God for the nations. As I write this I cannot help but take into consideration my own life, as I was literally “ekballoed” into this harvest field.

I firmly believe that God is literally mounting an invasion into all nations [people groups] of the earth and that prayer meetings and prayer groups [*filled with obedient and righteous saints*] such as ours provide the momentum for such an invasion. Remember Jesus Himself declared that we should PRAY that the Father will “ekballo” laborers into the harvest.

I urge you by the Spirit of the Lord to maintain your level of desire and to continue living in a powerful, breakthrough, victorious, forward looking state of being as we seek to plunder the kingdom of darkness and populate the kingdom of God. Let us continue lifting up our voices for the harvest in this region, nation and the nations of the earth – Blessings!