

# Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

**Date** : 18 Feb 2024

**Sermon Title** : The Heart of Harvest

**Speaker** : Rev Reuben Ng

**Text** : John 4:35

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## INTRODUCTION

This is the final sermon on 'The Heart of FAITH' sermon series.

We may not see it, but there is an invisible spiritual realm surrounding us. Because we do not see it, we tend to forget about its existence, but in this realm, there is an ongoing battle where the price of this battle is souls. For today's sermon on 'H' for 'Harvest', we are talking about souls. God desires souls because He loves people and we are here because He gave His Son for the 'harvest' - we have been 'harvested' to come together to worship Him now. 'Harvest' is important and essential, but why are many churches or Christians not very interested, passionate or concerned about the 'harvest'?

### **1) Do our eyes see as Jesus sees?**

Jesus highlighted to His disciples, "*Do you not say, 'four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.*" (John 4:35)

- The disciples are not seeing what Jesus was seeing – a field full of souls ripe for harvesting. Do we see what Jesus sees?
- There was an urgency for harvesting right then; not 4 months later. Today, more than 2000 years later, the urgency should be as great.

He addressed His disciples more than 2000 years ago but what Jesus said in John 4:35 to His disciples apply to us, His disciples today too. Look around us, are we looking at and seeing what Jesus is seeing; an invisible realm where the 'harvest' is ripe?

### Does the harvest concern me?

*Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few;"* (Matthew 9:37)

The 'harvest' is ready, it is ripe and plentiful, but we may not think it has anything to do with us or we may think there will not be enough for everyone to harvest. Or we can just stay where we are and pray that God sends the labourers and someone else will be the harvester.

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*For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7*

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- We need to pray for God to send labourers to the 'harvest' that is plentiful because when we pray, our heart will be touched, moved, encouraged and led to be part of the labour force for the 'harvest'.

## **2) Do our hearts beat to the rhythm of God's heart?**

Even when we see and are aware of the 'harvest', and the value of souls and the 'harvest' to God, some of us may not feel for it. We are not bothered by it and so let someone else handle it. This simply means that our hearts are not beating to the rhythm of God's divine heart because God's "heartbeat" is really for souls/the 'harvest'.

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."* (John 3:16)

Therefore,

- We can never talk too much or enough about the 'harvest' because God's heartbeat beats for the 'harvest' all the time.
- We can never give or spend too much for the 'harvest' because God saw the 'harvest' (us) and reached out for the 'harvest' by giving His all, His One and Only Son Jesus Christ, the costliest thing He had, for it.

When we remember that souls will spend eternity in darkness away from the warm presence of God because people who do not know God at the end of time will spend eternity in darkness, will we say that it is too much to spend on the 'harvest'?

- With wisdom and stewardship in place, our attitude and posture towards our resources should be to give and spend for the 'harvest' because that is God's posture in giving Jesus.

## **The Second Coming of Christ**

*The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.* (2 Peter 3:9)

Jesus will come again in His full glory and victory, but it is not for us to speculate when He is coming back.

- Our role and responsibility is to be faithful, so Jesus will find us faithful when He comes back; working the harvest with His heartbeat, wanting all to come to repentance and none to perish.

## **3. Do we have what it takes to bring in the Harvest?**

While most Christians may see or feel for the Harvest, the main reason why we do not focus on the 'harvest' could be because we think we cannot do anything or cannot make a difference to it or impact it.

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Moses felt the same, but he went beyond that feeling:

*“So Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in his speech and actions.” (Acts 7:22)*

Moses was wise, smart, eloquent, powerful in his speech and actions. When he was 40 years old, he killed an Egyptian slave master who was ill-treating a Hebrew slave, and when he found out that people knew what he had done, he fled Egypt, afraid of the repercussions. He lived in the desert in Midian for the next 40 years and at 80 years old, Moses encountered God at a burning bush.

- But when God told him to free God’s people from Egypt, *But Moses replied to the Lord, “Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent - either in the past or recently....because my mouth and my tongue are sluggish” (Exodus 4:10)*

God had asked Moses in Exodus 4:2, *“What is that in your hand?” He said, “A staff.”*

- Then in Exodus 4:17, God says to Moses, *“You will also take in your hand this staff, with which you will do the signs.”*
- With the unremarkable and plain staff, God did remarkable and spectacular miracles that the full might of Egypt could not withhold and keep the Israelites from leaving their borders.
- With the jawbone of a donkey/ass in Samson’s hand, God removed 1000 Philistines.
- With the 5 stones and 1 sling in David’s hands, the giant Goliath was taken down.
- With the 5 loaves and 2 fish in the boy’s hands, God fed 5000 with 12 basketfuls leftover.
- With the blood of Christians he had condemned with his mouth, on his hands, Paul baptized people who believed because of the Good News he preached with his mouth.

God will use what we have, what is in our hands and do amazing things to bring in the harvest.

## CONCLUSION

*“But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?” (Romans 10:14)*

Now is the time for us to not be spectators anymore but participants; to see what Jesus sees, have our hearts beat to the rhythm of God’s divine heartbeat and let God use what is in our hands to bring in the harvest so souls may be saved from eternal darkness and none should perish.

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# **Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion**

## **A. Review Sermon Application**

***Purpose: Reflect on how you have been embodying God's truth.***

- 1a. How successful have you been in fulfilling what you/your group had committed to do for the last FaithWalk?
- 1b. What were some challenges you faced and what would you like to celebrate?

2. Appoint someone to read John 4:35 slowly.
  - a. How are you responding to this sermon on 'Harvest'?
  - b. Do you see the urgency to bring in the 'harvest'?

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## **B. Relate Sermon Content**

***Purpose: Relate with the Truth and Resolve for Transformation.***

- 3a. What is encouraging or hindering you from being involved in the 'harvest'?
  - 3b. Where do you see that the 'harvest' is ripe?
  - 3c. What can you do about this ripe 'harvest'?
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4. What is your posture or attitude towards your resources when it concerns 'harvest'?
    - a. Does your heart beat to the rhythm of God's divine heartbeat for souls?
    - b. What is one thing in your hand now that God can use to bring in the 'harvest'?
    - c. How can your group members encourage or help you to be faithful in working on the 'harvest'?

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## **C. Testimonies, Prayers and Action**

***Purpose: Give glory to God, seek Him and embody His Word.***

5. Share about your involvement in 'Harvest' and how it has impacted your faith and walk with God?

**OR**

Give thanks to God for giving His all, His Only Son Jesus, for the 'Harvest', enabling our souls to be saved from darkness, so we can worship Him.

6. As a group, pray for your eyes to be open to see what Jesus sees concerning the 'Harvest' and ask God to reveal to our church what is hindering us from being passionate about 'Harvest'. Seek the Holy Spirit's empowerment for our church to overcome apathy, complacency and thoughts of inadequacy so we may be touched, moved and led to be willing to let God use what is in our hands to be part of the labour force for 'Harvest', so Christ may find us faithful when He returns.

### **Optional items:**

Suggested worship songs:

1. I Believe – Phil Wickham <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7PRGMQxNcM>
2. On That Day – CityAlight <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=McX9SdQS4mI>
3. Did You Hear the Mountains – Delirious <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8rehL6NjVE>

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