

It's There If You Want It

John 4:24-42

Reasons We Miss Opportunities to Bring In The Harvest

- (1) **Self gratification** – We spend our time trying to satisfy and gratify ourselves instead of learning to magnify and glorify the Lord –
 - Gal. 5:24-26 – stauroo: to *impale* on the cross; figuratively to *extinguish (subdue)* passion or selfishness
- (2) **Lack of self motivation** – We can't get past the excuses of our own deficiencies and shortcomings and see that we already have what we need to be successful
- (3) **Lack of confidence in God** – We have believed the lies of the devil that says to us:
 - I haven't worked hard enough to get it
 - I haven't studied enough to get it...

→ IT'S NOT THAT WE SHOULDN'T WORK, BUT YOU CAN NOT REMOVE THE SOVEREIGN HAND OF GOD AND GOD'S FAVOR FROM THE EQUATION BY BELIEVING THAT I CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN ON MY OWN... - Deut. 8:17-18
- (4) **Bad timing** – When you aren't sensitive to the Holy Ghost, you will miss opportunities that present themselves. – Acts 8:25-40
- (5) **Wrong focus** – When you place yourself in front of God, you are more effective as bringing a harvest to yourself than to God.
 - Many of us, while having an impact on the lives of others, are not reaching our God-given potential because we spend more time telling others about our personal experiences with Jesus than allowing them to experience Jesus for themselves

BACKGROUND

- While Jesus was ministering to the woman at the well, His disciples went to the city to buy meat (food)
- Jesus was hungry and thirsty but wasn't thinking about Himself, but the work of the Kingdom of God
 - Are you thinking about yourself or the Kingdom of God
- Jesus says in vs. 34 that He is nourished as He does the Will of God
 - Don't have time for distractions that can't minister or strengthen me...

CLOSING POINTS

- **Make sure you eat more Word than earthly food – Joshua 1:8**
- **Do you really want what God wants? – vs. 34 – Isa. 1:19**
- **Look at the opportunities God has already set before us – vs. 35**
- **Our slothfulness is a sign of disregard to the labors of those before us - vs. 38**