Daily Devotion #134

Open Your Eyes

*John 4:34-36 – “Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work. Do you not say, “There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest”? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.’”*

As I sit in my makeshift office away from home, I can see fields of flowering plants with yellow tops as if they are reaching to the sun. There are no concrete buildings to block my view or noisy streets with many passersby rushing off to do their next thing. Just fields of flowers. They almost seem to be like people themselves, yet without the worry and fuss over their worth and value and being lost in the day-to day routine of figuring out their lives.

Maybe that was why the Lord pointed out the flowers of the fields to the disciples? The disciples were no different from you and me. They often got lost in the details of their own lives, forgetting what their real purpose in life was. They spent most of their days working for their next meal and making sure their families were cared for. No doubt, they had changed tremendously since Jesus came into their lives, yet they still were caught in the trappings of what they wanted and what was most important for them. The Lord knew these things about the disciples, and he took the opportunities in front of Him to clarify their purpose and why He had chosen them to follow Him.

Notice two things Jesus says that are strikingly important for any disciple to understand. First, Jesus clarified His purpose for coming to earth - to do His Father’s will and to accomplish all His Father had given Him to do. Jesus understood well His role on earth. He was not to get lost in the daily routine and continually be fixated on Himself. He was to focus on what God the Father wanted from Him and for Him.

Could we not say the same about ourselves? Because God has rescued us through the finished work of His Son on the cross, could we not say our purpose in this life is to fulfill what our heavenly Father wants for us? How easy it is to forget or simply ignore the real reason you and I are on the earth. We are here for one purpose, to glorify our Father and to bring others into His Kingdom.

Secondly, Jesus makes clear our purpose. We are to be diligent in looking for ripe fields to harvest. Fields of souls. Lost souls who need the Savior. In the context of John’s message in chapter four, the disciples were astounded that Jesus would lower Himself to speak to a Samaritan, and a Samaritan woman no less. It had been taught to the disciples from their culture that there were some people, nations and even a gender that were not worth their time. But the Lord shows them by His own actions that all people need to be given the opportunity to hear the Gospel.

In these days of our lives, our role, our purpose as God’s people, is to reach lost souls. Most of the conversations I have today are how the churches are struggling and how many people are not coming to worship. The thinking seems to be that the church is in trouble. But, oh contraire, this very well could be the time when the church shines the brightest. This could very well be the greatest days of the church. Because we are called to be the light of God’s truth in the midst of the dark world.

But beloved, how will the church shine and how will souls be rescued if you and I miss the point of why we are on the earth? Your primary role is to do the will of Him who made you and to always be looking for ripe fields of souls that are ready to receive the precious Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Even now, look at the people around you. Let your light shine in the midst of that field, reach toward heaven as the Lord leads you to those in your path who need to hear the truth today.