



# WILL YOU GO INTO THE FIELDS WITH JESUS

a church in the World

## ABSTRACT

Working in the hot sun, using a sickle, a hoe, or a rake, was one of the least enjoyable experiences of ...

July 6, 2025

# Contents

<b>SCRIPTURE OF THE DAY</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>BODY</b> .....	<b>2</b>
HOW WILL JESUS FEED THE SHEEP? .....	3
IT IS MORE THAN EVANGELISM .....	4
WE MUST MENTOR .....	4
<b>TAKE AWAYS</b> .....	<b>5</b>

## Scripture of the Day

### Isaiah 6:4 – 8

*<sup>4</sup> And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!” <sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup> And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”*

*<sup>8</sup> And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”*

## Introduction

Farming is hard. It's hard now, and we have all of these machines to help us. What if you had to do everything by hand? Actually, we really don't have to imagine. In many parts of **Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Southeast Asia**, farming is still mainly done by hand or with animal power.

I am mainly a suburban/city kid, but I did have to go out and work in the field a very tiny bit growing up. Working in the hot sun, using a sickle, a hoe, or a rake, was one of the least enjoyable experiences of my life. I couldn't wait for it to end.

When I think of that experience, it makes me think of what Jesus is mentioning this week. If most people are like me when it comes to going out into the fields, most of us will choose not to go, and we really don't want to go where Jesus is going.

Will we choose to go with Him?

## Body

### Matthew 9:36 – 38

*<sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup> therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”*

We talked about the shepherd imagery last week and the love that Jesus has for His sheep is so great it hurts Him to His bowels that they are without a shepherd. What I didn't emphasize last week that the Jews listening to Jesus will hear the echoes of Ezekiel:

## Ezekiel 34:1 – 6

*The word of the Lord came to me: <sup>2</sup>“Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord God: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? <sup>3</sup>You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep. <sup>4</sup>The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them. <sup>5</sup>So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts. My sheep were scattered; <sup>6</sup>they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them.*

God’s passion for His people is from everlasting to everlasting. This is not new. And as we continue in Ezekiel we shall see that He has said He will take care of it:

## Ezekiel 34:11 – 16

*<sup>11</sup>“For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.*

## How Will Jesus Feed the Sheep?

These words from Ezekiel were from over 600 years ago. God keeps His promises. We see here in Ezekiel and from what we studied last week in Matthew and today that the sheep are scattered all over the place and they are numerous. How can all of these people be shepherded?

The IVP New Testament commentary gives us insight where what Jesus is saying would make perfect sense to His Jewish audience:

*Jewish teachers understood that each of them could handle only so many students, even if the students were still minors (Safrai 1974-1976a:957). The term Jesus uses for workers here recurs in 10:10, indicating that the workers Jesus wished to send forth into the harvest were his own disciples. He trains us in our life with him so we can reach the world*

*for him, making other disciples who in turn can carry on the work.*

## It is More Than Evangelism

Those who follow Jesus must engage in mission to those who have not heard of him and his kingdom. This is evangelism.

1. *“Zealous preaching and dissemination of the gospel, as through missionary work.*
2. *Fervent advocacy of a cause.*
3. *The preaching or promulgation of the gospel.*

But we as followers of Christ must do more than evangelize, we must disciple. If we go out and tell people about Jesus and the people say they give their lives to Jesus, but then we just leave them on their own. What will happen to them? They are just babies.

It is like we see a pregnant woman in need, where she is getting ready to give birth. We are they are helping doing everything we can for her to give birth to the baby safely. The baby is born we help clean the baby up, but the mother dies while giving birth. However, we have done our job the baby is born and we leave, just leaving the baby in the dirt.

What is going to happen to that baby?

We know what is going to happen to the baby. Those new “Christians” need the love and care of an adult to take care of them in the beginning. Protect them from the dangers of the world. That is the same that needs to be done for the brand new Christian. So we must evangelize, but we must also disciple.

### Acts 1:8

*<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

### Matthew 28:18 – 20

*<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

## We Must Mentor

These are a couple of the last statements Jesus said before He went up to be with the Father. We are to be witnesses, to talk about Jesus and share the good news. Which is the gospel, but we also have to disciple. I think sometimes we are not sure what discipling means, so let me use a more common word in English, and that is mentoring, or the word you hear every week from this pulpit and that is coaching.

## Take Aways

I want to close with this powerful statement from the Thru the Bible commentary:

*Having said this to His disciples, He now sends them forth. My friend, when you pray for something, it is always well to be willing to do it yourself. When our Lord asked the disciples to pray for laborers, He sent into the harvest these very men whom He asked to pray about it. This is very interesting indeed. An old bishop in the Methodist church in Georgia years ago said, "When a man prays for a corn crop, the Lord expects him to say 'Amen' with a hoe." I have always believed that you should not pray about anything unless you are also willing to do it yourself.*