

Elder Vernon Johnson  
Colors

## **Fields are White to Harvest**

Matt. 9:35 "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. 36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. 37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

John 4:35 "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

Jesus had compassion on the multitude. He compared them to sheep that have no shepherd and to fields white to harvest. In the scriptures, sheep are a symbol of God's elect people. Likewise, white fields give us an indication that the fruit of the fields is ready to be harvested. Harvest time is not a time of planting and establishing the plants, but a time of harvesting the crops and gathering them into the barn.

That the multitude were compared to fields white unto harvest shows us that they are identified by the state of their fruit production. The fields have already born fruits. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance. The multitude the Lord had compassion on are already born of the Spirit of God. They are already righteous (white) by the atoning blood of Christ. What is now needed for them is to be gathered into God's church kingdom here on earth. The church is the proper place for God's people here on earth.

The Lord told the disciples to pray the Lord of the harvest that he send forth laborers into the harvest. The Lord of the harvest owns the fields and the fruit of the fields belongs to him. The duty of the disciples is to pray that the Lord of the harvest will send forth laborers into his harvest. Only the Lord of the harvest can send forth laborers into his harvest. No one else has the authority to send forth laborers into his harvest. The church does not have the authority to send forth missionaries. The Lord, however, does send forth evangelists who go at his command and rely upon him to provide for their support.

The gathering into the church kingdom does not make the fields white or righteous.

They are already white or righteous. The work of the laborers is to gather those that are already righteous through the atoning blood of Christ into the Lord's church on earth that they no longer be as "sheep having no shepherd" and that they no longer be scattered abroad by the false teachings and false teachers of this world.

The laborer is not to strike out on his own, but he is to labor where the Lord of the harvest directs him and wait upon the Lord of the harvest to open to him doors of utterance. Only the Lord can open doors of utterance so that those who are scattered abroad are prepared to hear the gospel message of the laborers.