

The Harvest Is Hard

2025-01-27 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



John 4:34-38

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Jesus said the fields are ready for harvest now, not four months from now. Pastor Matt's warning label for the season was blunt: the harvest is hard. It is time sensitive, like manna that will not keep overnight. And it is work, because the assignment Jesus left was to go and make disciples. He also named the payoff honestly: closer connection with God, real community, clearer purpose, and skills you only pick up by serving. His line to remember: do not let the hard catch you off guard.

To get started

- What is something you keep saying you will do when life slows down?

Looking back at the message

The I-will-when list will be uncomfortably familiar. Let people say theirs out loud.

- 1 Pastor Matt listed the classic excuses: church when I am less busy, Bible after this show, prayer when the kids are older. Which one is yours?
- 2 Pastor Matt's line was: do not let the hard catch you off guard. When has difficulty in your faith caught you by surprise?
- 3 Pastor Matt described looking back at doors God opened that closed while he hesitated, blessings with expiration dates. What is one of those in your story? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read John 4:34-38 and Matthew 28:18-20 together. One says now, the other says go.

- 4 Read John 4:34-38. Jesus says the fields are ripe now, not in four months. Why does the timing matter?
- 5 Verse 38 says others did the hard work and you got to reap the benefit. Who did that hard work in your story?
- 6 Read Matthew 28:18-20. What is the actual verb of the assignment Jesus gives?
- 7 Read Exodus 16:19-20. The manna spoiled overnight. What does that tell you about how God's provision works? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

He was honest about cutting a fast short. That honesty invites the same from the group.

- 8 What did you honestly learn about yourself during the prayer and fasting season?
- 9 What hard thing has God asked of you that you have been treating as optional?
- 10 Pastor Matt named the payoffs: connection with God, community, purpose, and new skills. Which one do you want most right now?
- 11 What time-sensitive opportunity is sitting in front of you right now?

The group together

The harvest is explicitly a group assignment in this passage. Do not let it stay individual.

- 12 Who planted the seeds you are reaping? Who told you about Jesus first?
- 13 What is one hard thing this group could take on together this season?
- 14 Who in your life might be closer to ready than you think?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What is one hard thing you will stop putting off, and when will you start?

You might pray about

- For the people God has already made ready
- For endurance when following gets difficult
- For opportunities we have been putting off
- For those who sowed into us before we believed