

## **IT'S HARVEST TIME!**

I love harvest time down on the ranch and the farm. Whether it was haying season or grain harvest, my heart pumped with adrenaline to bring it and get it stored away. Living on a 5000 acre family farm in west central MN the 80's, harvest time was time to push yourself to the limits.

I remember one fall averaging 4 hours of sleep a night for 9 weeks bringing in the corn and soybeans. Thankfully we beat a 2 ½" inch rain storm that turned into an early blizzard that shut down the farming for the rest of the year. The harvest was over! Many farmers lost a lot of corn and some lost some of their soybeans. I was glad that we took it serious and got the crop all in as some of our neighbors corn was still standing in the wet fields in Late May and early June the next year.

There is another harvest that is even more important in the eyes of God – the harvest of souls! It is quite interesting to compare this to the teaching of Jesus Christ to His disciples. After Christ's encounter with the Samaritan women at the well, Christ told the disciples these words, "do not say four more months and then the harvest. I tell you open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest" John 4:35.

A survey some time ago by George Barna revealed that only 53% of born-again believers feel a sense of responsibility to share their faith and win others to Jesus Christ. This is alarming to me and if true we need to do much better. How much more should we as believers be focused on the greatest harvest of all, the harvest of souls! Souls are the only possession that we will bring to heaven!

Read these quotes of earlier believer's passion to win others to Christ so they would have eternal life:

"I care not where or how I lived, so that I could gain souls for Christ." David Brainerd

"God, the sin of this city is breaking my heart." Samuel Hadley, about New York.

"Lord, give me souls or take my life." George Whitefield

"Here, let me burn of for God." Henry Martyn, on the shores of India

"I am very tired but I must go on...a fire is in my bones...oh God what can I say, souls, souls, souls! My heart hungers for souls." General William Booth

"I would rather win souls than be the greatest king or emperor on earth. My one ambition in life is to win as many as possible." R A Torrey

**“He is no fool to give up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” Missionary Jim Elliot**

**Is this your hearts cry? I trust it is! If not, ask the Father to make it your hearts cry for, “HE WHO WINS SOULS IS WISE! Proverbs 11:30**

**In Christ’s Love**

**Pastor Donn Jibben**