



## **Look Out!!!**

Jonathan Landis

7/20/05

We as Christians have a tendency to get our focus off of what God has called us to do. He has chosen us to be the tools that will take the gospel to the world, but too often we are useless to this cause. I am convinced that our eyes are fixed on the wrong things. If we had our focus where it belonged, then we would be going about the work that Christ has commanded.

**John 4:35** *Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.*

Jesus tells us here that we need to open our eyes and look at the fields. To long we have had our eyes on ourselves. We are concerned with our own lives, our own problems, even our own spiritual growth, but what about the fields??? We look inward, but Jesus says, "Look out!!! Look at the fields. They are ready to be harvested."

### **Proverbs 10:5**

*He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son,  
but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.*

We (the church) need to wake up from our spiritual sleep. Now is not the time for us to just cruise our way through life. We can't just chill while there are people all around us that are on their way to hell. We need to get with it and start doing the work of the harvest. We need to open our eyes and 'look out' on the harvest. Then we need to get about doing the work. We are a disgrace to God and His Kingdom if we just shut our eyes and do nothing while the harvest rots on the vine. Enough time has been wasted and enough people have gone to hell while the church sat back in our couches and watched reruns. Seriously...

So the real question is, once we 'look out' to see the harvest...

## How Do We Harvest?

So we know that people are lost and on their way to hell. We know that Jesus is the way to salvation... after all, He saved us! But how do we get that into people's heads? How do we let them know that Christ is the way, the truth and the life? How do we make them see that they are lost, and there is only one way out of it? How can we open their eyes?  
(Get responses from teens...)

### John 12:32

*But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.*

-Jesus

In the next verse (33), the scriptures indicate that this shows what kind of death Jesus was going to die. Jesus was talking about his death on a cross. He would be lifted up (\*act out hanging on a cross) and people would be drawn to Him. One of the biggest ways that we can bring people to Christ is by expressing the importance of Jesus death on the cross for their sin and ours. We need to make it clear to people that they are sinners and need salvation; that they have to accept Christ's death on the cross as their payment for THEIR sin.

We can save NO ONE... Our job is not to save people, but to show them their need for salvation. We are the messengers that are called to share with people the hope of the cross. Our challenge is to share the gospel... the message of the cross... and its up to God to change their lives.

Illustration: SermonCentral.com

One day a lady criticized D. L. Moody for his methods of evangelism in attempting to win people to the Lord. Moody's reply was "I agree with you. I don't like the way I do it either. Tell me, how do you do it?" The lady replied, "I don't do it." Moody retorted, "Then I like my way of doing it better than your way of not doing it." -- James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988) p. 178....

### What are some creative ways that we can share Jesus with people?

- invite someone to youth group
- stand on the corner with a cross (try it some time... it will get responses... good and bad)
- go door to door or street witnessing telling people directly about Jesus and the message of the cross

- hand out sodas and invitations to youth
- invite someone to come to a special event (like river day) where they will meet other Christians
- share your testimony (Woman at well told Samaritan's John 4:28-29,39-42)
- etc...

Prayer:

I commit to 'look out' at the harvest all around me. I promise to get my eyes off of myself and to think about others who need Jesus. With your help, Jesus, I will be a witness. I will find ways to share the message of the cross with people.