

**Date:** August 18 2013

**Theme:** Dividing Line

**Object:** Line of tape on the floor

**Scripture:** "Do you suppose that I came to grant peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division; for from now on five *members* in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three." (Luke 12:51-52 NASB)

**Slide** It is back to school time. Are you ready to learn and have fun? What is your favorite subject; Math, Reading, Science or Art? When I was in school my favorite subject was recess. That is when we got to go outside and play and be with friends. Sometimes we were divided into teams. We would count 1-2, 1-2, 1-2 and the "ones" would be on one team and the "twos" on another.

Outside of school we are often divided up into different groups; boys and girls or by size or by age and by what we like and dislike. I have put a piece of tape on the floor and we are going to try several ways of dividing into two different groups. Lets see – how about chocolate and vanilla ice cream? If you like chocolate the best stand on this side of the line and if you like vanilla stand on this side of the line. Ok, lets try another - Baseball and Football. If you like Baseball stand on this side and if you like Football come to this side. We will try one more – if you like to play dress up as a princess stand on this side of the line and if you like playing solider on this side.

You can see we do not always think the same or like the same things. Our Lord Jesus said He would come and divide people into two groups. Jesus meant that even though He came to die on the cross to save the whole world, there would be some who would not believe.

If I were to say to you, "Everyone who loves Jesus and wants to follow Him,

come stand on this side of the line," I'm sure that everyone here would come and stand on this side of the line. But, Jesus said that even in the same family, not everyone would believe in Him for salvation and the family would be divided. **Slide** That is why we should tell others the good news that Jesus loves them and that Jesus can change their hearts.

Jesus, we love You and we want to follow You and do as You tell us how to live each day. Help us to tell others that You love them too, and that You died for them, so we will be faithful in sharing the gospel of "Good News" that everyone desperately needs. Amen

John 4:35-38

Sermon #24

**Slide** God's Harvest

## Opening Prayer

There is now a shift in our story of Jesus and the woman at the well. She now knows Jesus and has wasted no time in going to the village to tell people about this Jesus, who is the Christ. The disciples were still focused on the physical and the need for Jesus to eat. Jesus tries to get them to shift their thoughts to the spiritual by telling them that He has “**food to eat which they do not know.**” It appears this does not work because the disciples are wondering if someone has brought Jesus food while they were gone. Jesus then explains that His food is to do the work of God the Father and to finish the Father's work given to Him. We know by the scriptures that Jesus proved to be completely faithful in His mission.

Jesus now goes on to explain to the disciples that His work, nay, His mission concerns harvesting souls for the Father. While Jesus is talking to the disciples the woman is already proclaiming Jesus to the men of the village and it is these village people who Jesus is referring to - as being ready for the harvest in the immediate sense and Jesus is also referring to the world in general.

We have set the stage to continue our story and what our Lord Jesus taught the disciples two thousand years ago and what He will teach us this morning. Jesus is showing His disciples that there would be great opportunities for to spreading the gospel both among the Jews and the Gentiles. Jesus is teaching His disciples that their mission is the same as His mission; they are to faithfully share, preach and model the gospel to the lost. Jesus, God the Son, said, **Slide** “**All authority has been**

given to Me in and on earth.” Jesus has all authority, for it was given to Him by God the Father! How much authority has been given to us? Jesus gives us His authority for we are His servants. Jesus has given us our mission in life when He said, **Slide** “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

(Matthew 28:18-20 NASB) In this passage Jesus specifically commands us to **Slide** “teach them to observe all that I commanded you;” Jesus is referring to the breadth of the scriptures contained in the Holy Bible. In John chapter 4 Jesus is making it clear to the disciples that they will be His witnesses to not only the Jews, but to the Gentiles and to the whole world. My, beloved, we have the same task before us as the disciples and the woman at the well. Jesus is commanding you and I to witness in our work places, in our homes, in our schools and everywhere we are and everywhere we go. You might say, “But pastor I do not have the courage.” And I will respond, you are right, you do not have the courage, and neither did the disciples. This is why God sent the Holy Spirit to dwell within the disciples and in us. It is the Holy Spirit that gives us courage and spiritual wisdom. You might say, “I do not have the time; I have a family, spouse and children, I have my work that takes a lot of energy.” I tell you, my brothers and sisters, sleep is highly over rated! We are to spend our energy sharing the gospel and serving others as witnesses of Jesus. When your head hits the pillow at night you will sleep well when you have given your all to the Lord that day - doing your best at work and taking the opportunity to share the gospel for both of these are witnesses of God living in us. You need to take the extra few minutes to talk with the clerk at the grocery store or the person next to you at the gas pump while you fill your tank and talking with your neighbor instead of rushing into the house to shut out the world when you get home. Do not

turn on the TV when you get home, but spend time with your spouse and children talking of godly things, reading the scriptures and praying to our Holy God.

This morning I am doing something I have never done before. What now follows I hope helps you understand our call to serve our Lord first, then each other and then the world.

**Slide** Video – The Harvest

Please my beloved - take a moment to reflect. (One minute of silence)

We end our time of corporate worship with this verse for your consideration. **Slide**

<sup>36</sup> “Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. **Slide** <sup>37</sup> Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.’ ” (Luke 9:36-38 NASB)

Close in Prayer