

Thought for a Wednesday

August 19, 2009

Jesus,

What's up with the harvest?

Signed,

Mark (and friends)

PS. This routine of not seeing much is getting tiring...

As I've pondered my walks around Saratoga Springs, I've almost forgotten He has already answered this question. Do you remember what He said?

"I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." (John 4:35)

There is always a harvest at hand, and that harvest is always right around you. Perhaps you've heard this notion before, but have you actually really opened your eyes to the ripeness that surrounds you? If you're like me, you may have squinted, catching a glimpse of it, and then scratched your head and began to wonder, *"Just how big is this field I'm standing in?"*

One of the things that have been impressed upon me recently is that the harvest is among people who are hungry. They may not even know what they are hungry for, yet. And our job is to look for the hungry ones. They are all around us – As we deliberately take our "walks" around the city here's what we might see, or learn or be led of the Spirit to recognize...

- ◆ the person in line behind us is a few dollars short of cash to pay for their groceries, so we pitch in...
- ◆ the older gentleman at the gas pump puts only \$5 in his gas tank which indicates he is barely squeaking by, so we insist on giving him a bit more gasoline...
- ◆ we return to the same check out person time after time at Hanaford's/Price Chopper even though their line is longer, just because we're making an ongoing emotional/intentional investment...
- ◆ we take the time to learn the names of the workers at Stewarts/Uncommon Grounds/The Fortunate Cup (shameless plug insert here)... something unheard of – we get to know their stories.. listening... also unheard of in our day... we remember their birthdays with a tiny but significant gift...

All these things, and so much more we do as intentional investments in being the hands and feet, the salt and light, the "Jesus is the answer" to every question on the mind of every person we see as we're out and about in our Jerusalem (better known as Saratoga Springs)

The fields have been ready for harvest since the day Jesus spoke those words. This is assuring wisdom for us. Ours is not to create an opportunity. Ours is to spot the current opportunity. There is fruit ready for us to pick, today and probably within arm's reach. All we have to do is look. If we open our eyes and have the courage to walk through the door God designed just for us, we will experience the lifestyle of a successful farmer. We need to rethink our notions of the harvest before this can happen.

Wow! I look forward to the ongoing conversations we'll be having on this topic!

Be Strong, Be Courageous, Be Fearless – and remember...

Christ IS All!

Pastor Mark