

I. CHRIST'S COMMISSION v.36a

II. MAN'S CONDITION v.36b

Jesus saw the multitudes as being inwardly devastated by sin and hopelessness.

Their religious leaders gave them no spiritual pastures.

The scribes & Pharisees offered a religion that added burdens instead of lifting them.

The scribes & Pharisees were true descendants of the false shepherds.

Many religious leaders are endeavoring to keep people out of the kingdom by

- distorting & contradicting God's Word &
- perverting the way of salvation....
- ⊖ ...the God who would never...
- ⊖ ... I must earn...

Christ feels compassionate love for those who lie helpless outside the sheepfold God has provided.

Jesus called false teachers thieves & robbers, from whom people should flee (Jn.10.1,5).

III. JUDGEMENT'S COMING v.37a

Jesus here changes the metaphor from shepherding to harvesting.

Jesus also ministered because they faced God's final judgment.

Isaiah 17.10–11; Jl.3.11–14; Jesus spoke of the two plants being allowed Mt.13.30; Re.14.14–20.

The unmistakable emphasis is one of judgment.

❖ Paul said, *"Therefore knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men"* (II Co.5.11).

It is easy to lose awareness of the imminence & the inevitability of God's judgment ...but ...The Christian _____.

It grieves Jesus' heart for even one to perish (II Pe.3.9).

IV. GOD'S METHOD vv.37b–38

The primary problem that hindered Jesus' ministry as ... is the primary problem that hinders it today: the workers are few.

Jesus' training method, began with giving His disciples the insight of the need.

The need far surpasses the outreach of those who are seeking to minister it.

Who can reach, tell, share, & warn?

The first need in His ministry is for workers, & the first step is prayer.

Jesus' method is prayer.

Christ's workers are to pray for more workers.

The Lord of the harvest is a title of God that represents His role as judge.

The Lord of the harvest is the Judge of the unsaved.

The Christian's first responsibility is not to go out & start working but to come to the Lord in prayer.

Waiting on the Lord is a crucial part of serving Him.

CONCLUSION/APPLICATION: