

What Jesus Wants! Part 4: "Farmers!"

"Will you just do it for Me?" –Jesus "I know what you want from Me..." "But do you know what I want from you?"

Friends... Who will be with Him! On His side! For no other reason than He asked for people who will... Speak up about Him and not deny Him! Stick closer than a brother! Talk through the issues without a plan B to leave! Who will not give up on Him, His burden, His mission! ***Who never give up, never walk away, who always refresh their friendship!***

Farmer's ! 2 Timothy 2.1-7 My son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. You therefore must *endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ*. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. And also *if anyone competes in athletics*, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. *It is the hardworking farmer* that is first to partake of the crops. Consider what I say, **and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.**

The Three Amigo's... A **Soldier** who never gives up! Focused, equipped and loyal! A person of authority, under authority! An **Athlete** who never takes short cuts! Constantly trained to maintain... Cross trained for strength and endurance! A **Farmer**, long on hard work and patience as he waits for the harvest!

Verses for Farmers! "I am the Vine, *My Father is the husbandman (farmer)*. Every branch in Me that does not produce fruit *He takes away* and every branch that bears fruit *He "purges"* so that it bears more!" **John 15.1,2** "Be imitators of God as dear children!" **Ephesians 5.1** whatever doesn't produce fruit, cut it off, and whatever does, keep watch over it to produce more!

Be patient therefore, brethren, regarding the coming of the Lord. Take a look, *the husbandman (farmer) waits for the precious fruit of the earth, and has long patience for it*, until he receive the early and latter rain. *Be patient; establish your hearts:* for the coming of the Lord draws nigh. **James 5.7,8** "Be imitators of God as dear children!" **Ephesians 5.1** don't give up on a planted crop too soon... be confident in the process!

A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit but found none. Then he said to the gardener, 'For three years I have come looking for fruit on this tree and have none. Cut it down. Why let it take up space?' The gardener answered, 'Lord, *give me one more year, I will dig around it and fertilize it*, and if it bears fruit that will be good, and if not, then we'll cut it down.' **Luke 13.6-9** As imitators, give your best efforts to revitalize a thing before it's over!

"The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field, but *while men slept*, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and left. When the grain sprouted and produced a crop, the tares appeared. The servants came and asked, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? How does it have tares?' He replied, '*An enemy has done this.*' **Matthew 13.24ff** Stay alert! "A little sleep..." Watch for your enemy!

Mark 4.3-9 "Listen and see; A sower went out to sow seed: And as he sowed, some fell by the way side and the birds dropped down and devoured it. Some fell on thin soil lightly covering rock. Immediately it

sprouted but, because it had no depth of earth, when the sun came up it was scorched and because it had no root, it withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. And other seed fell on good ground, and yielded fruit that grew and increased; some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred times... He that has ears to hear, let him hear."

The Explanation! Those on the wayside hear the word and Satan comes immediately and takes away the word sown in their hearts. Those on stony ground hear and immediately receive it with gladness but have no roots, so they endure for a time, but when affliction or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they turn away. Those sown among thorns hear the word, but the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things enter in, choke the word and it becomes unfruitful. But those sown on good ground hear and receive the word and bear fruit, multiplied thirty, sixty, and a hundred times! **V14-20**

Inspiration! Jesus sowed the word and people heard it! They all heard and received it to some degree, but with time, some lost the word to dark works, others to self-preservation, others to darkened, deceptive, desires... but some of the hearers received the word and some produced 'more,' others 'much more' and some 'multiplied' fruit from what they heard! ***Classic interpretation involves six groups with differing responses to God's word!***

Under that interpretation... A farmer might cut off the unproductive branches and burn them... Might move with too swift a decision to cut down the barren trees altogether... Be quick to blame it on an enemy... And not even consider a patient and labor intense effort to "work around" the bad wood... *There could be an inclination to only move on with the producers... and maybe, then, only the best producers!*

Incarnation #1! We sow the word and people hear it! And depending on where they stand in the field and how they hear, some will not respond, and some will respond by degrees! But we are sowers of the word, farmer's, in the business of planting, watering, digging, fertilizing, pruning, purging, watching and waiting for the precious fruit because it's what our Father does in, and for, us!

Incarnation #2! We sow the word and a person hears it! Depending on where they are and how they hear, a thief may sweep it up, turbulence may drown it out, their problems may try to choke it out... *But we are sowers of the word*, and what doesn't germinate today in hard, shallow, thorn-riddled soil may grow tomorrow with more sowing, a little extra care and patience. And what does grow can get better than we imagined!

Under that incarnation... A farmer might be inclined to hope for better, more uniform, results! Might be willing to look a little deeper, invest a little more, endure a little longer! Might engage the producers to help the others behind them in line! *Might be willing to just keep on sowing, without even a thought of giving up!*

"Will you become a farmer just because I am asking?" -Jesus