**THE HARVEST PRINCIPLES**

**John 4:34-42**

In recent times a liberal politician remarked, “Never let a serious crisis go to waste.” Of course, he spoke in terms of gaining political advantage. If the corona virus pandemic could result in more people investigating the Gospel, shouldn’t the Body of Christ be prepared to do some reaping?

**Introduction:**

Jesus makes it clear that a physical harvest has a spiritual application. Jesus was busy in Samaria collecting a harvest when no one else expected one.

**From the physical to the spiritual:**

 1. To continue without intermission – Genesis 8:22

First mention of harvest – atmospheric conditions will never change so radically that there cannot be a harvest! If there wasn’t a harvest anywhere, we would all be hungry.

 2. Harvest was recognized as a time of feasting and celebration –

Exodus. 23:14-16; Luke 15:7

 a. The celebration is connected to a lamb – Leviticus 23:9-12

 3. Some miss the harvest – Jeremiah 8:20

 For the following possibilities:

 a. Lack of rain – Amos 4:7 Produces a famine – Amos 8:11

 b. Lack of preparation – Proverbs 10:5; 6:6-10

 4. Everyone could benefit from the harvest – Leviticus 19:9,10 – not just the preacher and trained soul winners. Leviticus 23:39-44 is a picture of a county fair!

 People in this church who contribute nothing will still benefit!

 5. The primary problem is lack of laborers – Matthew 9:37-38

In *Les Miserables* Victor Hugo tells of Jean Valjean, whose only crime was stealing a loaf of bread to feed his sister’s starving children. After serving 19 years, he was released from the galleys. Because he was a convict, he couldn’t find work and came to the home of an old bishop who gave him supper and a bed for the night. Yielding to temptation, he stole the bishop’s silver plates and slipped out. But he was soon caught and returned. The kind bishop said, “Why, I gave them to him. And Jean, you forgot to take the candlesticks.” Astounded at such kindness, this action brought about Jean’s salvation. A little deed of kindness can turn a sinner to the Saviour.

 In this time of national crisis, may we all find ways to express kindness to one another.