

SLAVE FOR THE MASTER OF THE HARVEST

Note to the speaker:

Explain clearly that serving Jehovah as slaves is not oppressive but results in joy. Be positive, and highlight the blessings that come from faithful service

JESUS LIKENED HIS DISCIPLES TO SLAVES OF THEIR MASTER, JEHOVAH GOD (6 min.)

“Slave” and “slavery” evoke negative thoughts for many because of the abuse, hard labor, and loss of freedom that slaves in general have suffered (*w92* 4/1 3, 4)

Christians are referred to as slaves of God because they have been “bought with a price” (1Co 7:23)

By virtue of ransom sacrifice, they have been emancipated from slavery to sin and death and have made themselves available for service to God (Joh 3:16; 2Co 5:14, 15)

Have come under obligation to keep his commands

Like the Hebrew slave who loves his master, Christians should be eager to serve the Master, Jehovah, who has given them life and all its blessings (Ex 21:5, 6; 1Jo 5:3)

Since God is their Master, Christians cannot serve other masters and still be pleasing to him (Mt 6:24)

Jesus set pattern by putting first priority on working for his heavenly Father (Joh 4:34)

All people on earth are in one of two categories—those who serve God as disciples of Jesus and those who do not (Mt 12:30; 1Co 10:21)

JEHOVAH GOD IS A LOVING MASTER, WORTHY OF OUR SERVICE (7 min.)

Jesus showed that Jehovah is a caring and loving Master

On one preaching campaign, Jesus saw the people in great spiritual need and felt pity for them (Mt 9:35, 36; *gt* 49)

He indicated to the disciples that they had a great deal of work ahead of them (Mt 9:37)

Yet, he assured them that “the Master of the harvest,” Jehovah God, would help them to complete the harvest (Mt 9:38)

After telling disciples to ask for more workers, Jesus sent them out to the field with specific instructions (Mt 10:1, 5-15)

They were to preach the Kingdom (Mt 10:7)

Disciples not to get sidetracked by materialism while participating in the harvest (Mt 10:9-11)

Approach each householder with message of peace (Mt 10:12-15)

Those who participated in the work as directed by Jesus experienced much joy and received blessings from their loving Master (Lu 10:17-20)

Harvest work in first century blessed by the Master

On Pentecost 33 C.E., about 3,000 were baptized (Ac 2:41)

Jehovah kept giving the increase (Ac 2:47b; 4:4; 5:14)

Still, more workers are needed—Why?

HARVEST WORK IS TO CLIMAX IN TIME OF THE END (15 min.)

In a forceful illustration, Jesus foretold that harvest work is to come to a climax in the time of the end. Read Matthew 13:24-30 (Mt 13:36-39; *w81* 8/1 16-26; *kc* 102-3)

“The sower” represents Jesus

The “fine seed” represents wheatlike Christians, “the sons of the kingdom,” or anointed Christians (*wt* 178-9)

The first of these were Jesus’ apostles and other disciples who received the gift of the holy spirit at Pentecost 33 C.E. (*w81* 8/1 18)

“The enemy” is “the Devil”

“The weeds” are “the sons of the wicked one”—his hypocritical religious offspring in Christendom (*w81* 8/1 19, 20)

“The harvest” is “a conclusion of a system of things” (*w81* 8/1 22)

We are now in a harvest time

Under angelic direction the wheat is being separated from the weeds (*w81* 8/1 24, 25; *ws* 68)

Their enlightened condition and glorious service cause the wheat class to be “shining as illuminators in the world” (Mt 13:43; Php 2:15)

As “the sons of the kingdom” let their light shine, many others with listening ears are helped to flee from the grip of the weed class

Since the mid-1930’s, the influx of the “great crowd” of “other sheep” has been gaining momentum (Joh 10:16; Re 7:9, 10)

Where do you stand with regard to the fulfillment of Jesus’ illustration of the wheat and the weeds?

Are you supporting the ingathering work being done by the wheatlike anointed brothers of Jesus?

TODAY WE ARE INVITED TO SLAVE FOR THE MASTER OF THE FINAL HARVEST (12 min.)

The great harvest work taking place today requires many workers

All true worshipers of Jehovah must participate in preaching and teaching Kingdom truths (Mt 24:14; 28:19, 20)

View yourself as an instrument in God's hands (1Co 3:6, 7)

Plant and sow seeds of truth in public ministry

Some will respond; others will not

Literally, thousands are being helped to an accurate knowledge of the truth (Consult current *Yearbook* on latest statistics on number of publishers, home Bible studies conducted, and so forth; relate one or two experiences listed in *Index* under "Field Ministry" to show positive response to preaching work)

Recognize your personal responsibility to participate in the ministry

Just living a good life is not enough; must be active in producing Kingdom fruitage (Ps 34:1; Ac 5:28, 29, 42; 10:42)

Heed Bible counsel to have plenty to do in the work of the Lord (1Co 15:58)

Many associated but not yet baptized

We urge you to consider your personal circumstances seriously

Because end is near, dangerous to keep putting off accepting responsibility and making dedication (*w92* 10/1 20-3)

JOYS AND BLESSINGS AWAIT THOSE WHO FAITHFULLY SHARE IN HARVEST WORK (5 min.)

It is a grand privilege to have a share in the great harvest work going on under the direction of the Master of the harvest, Jehovah

The joys and blessings are pictured by ancient Israel's Festival of Ingathering, or Festival of Booths (De 16: 13-15; *it-1* 823)

Just like celebrants of ancient festival, great crowd today are pictured as having palm branches in their hands and joyfully ascribing salvation to God and to the Lamb (*re* 122)

The great crowd have the marvelous prospect of surviving the "great tribulation" and living in new world (Re 7:14; 2Pe 3:13)

These blessings are theirs because "they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" and because "they are before the throne of God" and "rendering him sacred service day and night" (Re 7:15; *re* 126)

You too can enjoy these marvelous blessings by faithfully sharing in the grand harvest work today

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read. Source material in parentheses need not be mentioned)