

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP



THE HARVEST



- ⌚ Jesus came into the world to harvest all of it, or at least seek to harvest it, into a community characterized solely by God's reconciling love.
- ⌚ But he doesn't seek to do it alone. He wants his disciples to be highly active in this harvest work. But there is a hurdle to overcome: we have a tendency to want to keep Jesus to ourselves rather than to allow him, and us, to step out onto the harvest plain.
- ⌚ Are there ways you notice yourself individually or us as a church community hitting this obstacle?

THE HARVEST

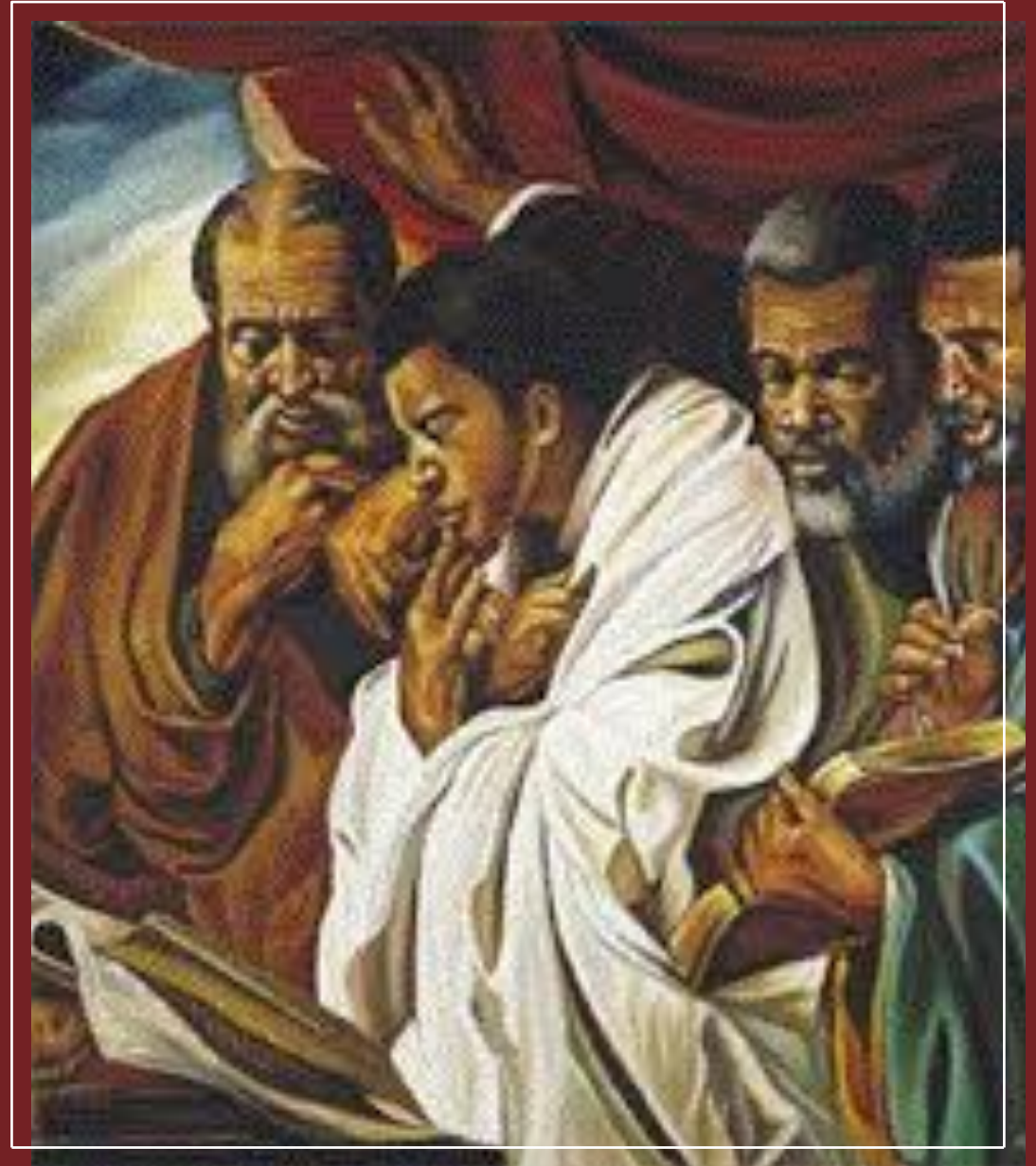
The harvest is indeed many, and the laborers are indeed few. The world is screaming for God's reconciling love, and there never seem to be enough disciples who truly see and love the world through Jesus' eyes to go around.

But...we dare not simply take it upon ourselves to become the harvest workers. We must simply pray that the Lord will call such workers and send them, and we can only number ourselves amongst them when called.

So on a practical level, we have lots of "harvest" ministries, e.g. Laundry Love and garden/food pantry ministries. How can we tell the difference between when we are taking this upon ourselves and when we are authentically responding to Jesus' call?

THE APOSTLES

- 🕒 Bonhoeffer notes that the only bond of unity between Jesus' Apostles is their calling and the choice to obey it.
- 🕒 Sometimes it seems like the people with whom we have the hardest time finding a sense of peace and common cause is our fellow Apostles (other Christians) with whom we have significant disagreement. What do we do with this?



THE WORK

The work that Jesus gives to his Apostles is to go out and proclaim the Kingdom of God. This is done by spreading a clear, simple word of peace.

The work has some key characteristics:

It is limited by what Christ commands us to do. We aren't meant to spread the Word everywhere that whim takes us, but only where Jesus has specifically called us to do so.

It is urgent-there is no time to wait.

It is weak and yielding-the proclaimer must be perfectly willing for the Word to be rejected and, if it is, simply to happily accept the return of the peace (s)he sought to spread.

THE WORK

- 🕒 The conditions set forth on the previous slide are somewhat paradoxical and self-contradictory. How can we put this all into action?

