



20 NOV 2022 | ELDER LEE EE YANG | HARVEST IS HERE! - ARE WE READY FOR THE HARVEST? | MATTHEW 9:35-37

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Be reminded of the word in season for RiverLife Church.
2. Understand the meaning of spiritual harvest.
3. Learn 3 things that the Lord wants to reveal to us about spiritual harvest:
 - a. Jesus came to earth to die on the cross for the redemption of our sins and if we repent, we will be able to receive abundant life, blessings and fruitfulness.
 - b. God wants us to have a fresh revelation of His love for us and wants to deliver us from despair, spiritual blindness and oppression.
 - c. We have a mandate to partner with God to be sent out to reach out to those who have yet to come to know Jesus as their own personal Lord and Saviour.

SERMON SUMMARY

Elder Ee Yang and the church leadership believe that God is bringing RiverLife into a fresh and new move of the Spirit and a new season of spiritual harvest. A spiritual harvest starts with an awakening. It is a celebration of abundant life, blessings and fruitfulness through a relationship with Jesus.

The following are 3 things that the Lord wants to reveal to us about spiritual harvest:

1. *The Message of Jesus*
 - Sin is in the way of us experiencing spiritual harvest.
 - Jesus came to earth to die on the cross in order that our sins are forgiven, and He has the authority to forgive our sins (Matthew 9:1-8).
 - When we repent, we will receive abundant life, blessings and fruitfulness.
2. *The Love of God*
 - God wants to give us a fresh revelation of His love and compassion.
 - God wants to deliver us from despair, spiritual blindness and oppression (Luke 4:18-19).
 - God is concerned for His lost sheep (Luke 15:3-7).
3. *Our Role in the Spiritual Harvest*
 - We have a mandate to partner with God to be harvesters – understanding the message of Jesus and to spread the love of God.
 - To do that, our hearts need to be revived.
 - We need to pray and avail ourselves to be sent out to reach those who have yet to come to know Jesus.



SERMON RECAP

Elder Ee Yang began his message by quoting words that have been released to RiverLife over the past few months by Brother Morgan on Isaiah 43:19, Ps David Peters about the new dawn and Rev Pat about New Thing, New Season. He and the church leadership believe that God is bringing RiverLife into a fresh and new move of the Spirit and a new season of spiritual harvest.

To understand what spiritual harvest means, Elder Ee Yang explained that we have to first look at what is spiritual famine. He quoted Amos 8:11-12 that speaks of “a famine of hearing the words of the Lord”. This was when people are not able to hear from God and the presence of God is cut off from His people because they refused to listen to His prophets, His servants. This prophesy was fulfilled when there was 400 years of silence from God.

Spiritual harvest, however, is the exact opposite of spiritual famine. Spiritual harvest is when God pours out His Spirit and presence in such a powerful way that there is an abundance of God’s Word and His Spirit (Joel 2:28-29). The 400 years of silence from God was broken by John the Baptist. He describes Jesus as a harvester in Matthew 3:11-12. The fullness of the harvest was manifested when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples in the Upper Room as described in Acts 2.

RiverLife Church went through a period of revival between 1999-2001, following a leadership crisis. It was when the church was at its lowest and people were dealing with hurts. However, we began to experience the filling of the Spirit, divine visitation, healings and deliverance from oppression. In 2009, ex-Elder Han Beng said that there will be a second wave of revival in RiverLife and Elder Ee Yang has been stewarding this word in his heart for 13 years.

A spiritual harvest starts with an awakening. It is a celebration of abundant life, blessings and fruitfulness through a relationship with Jesus. Based on Matthew 9:35-37, the following are 3 things that the Lord wants to reveal to us about spiritual harvest:

1. *The Message of Jesus*

- During harvest time, the message of Jesus is central and has to be proclaimed.
- Jesus went through the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom.
- However, sin is in the way of us experiencing spiritual harvest.
- Jesus came to earth to die on the cross in order that our sins are forgiven, and He has the authority to forgive our sins (Matthew 9:1-8).
- When we repent, sin no longer has any hold on us. Repent is “Metanoia” in Greek, which means change of mind and involves turning with contrition to God.
- When we repent, we will receive abundant life, blessings and fruitfulness. This is the divine exchange where we are imputed with the righteousness of God through coming to faith in Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21).



2. *The Love of God*

- Jesus had compassion for the crowd, who were distressed and downcast, like sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9:35-37).
- God wants to give us a fresh revelation of His love and compassion. Jesus gave up everything He had, including His life, for our salvation.
- God wants to deliver us from despair, spiritual blindness and oppression (Luke 4:18-19) because His compassion is over us.
- God is concerned for His lost sheep (Luke 15:3-7). God wants those who are lost in the world, troubled and scattered, to come home to Him.

3. *Our Role in the Spiritual Harvest*

- Jesus told His disciples to plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest (Matthew 9:37). The disciples embraced the mission of Jesus, started praying and they were sent out by God to do the same work of Jesus.
- We have a mandate to partner with God to be harvesters – understanding the message of Jesus and to spread the love of God.
- To do that, our hearts need to be revived.
- We need to pray and avail ourselves to be sent out to reach those who have yet to come to know Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS


1. **Elder Ee Yang began his message by reminding us of the word in season for RiverLife Church - that God is doing a new thing, bringing about a fresh and new move of the Spirit and spiritual harvest in our midst. Do you resonate with this word in season? Why or why not?**

Leader's Notes

This is a recap and reflect question for members to ponder on the word in season that have been spoken over RiverLife Church on a few occasions in the past months. Leaders can encourage members to share if God has been speaking to them individually about the new thing that God is about to do in our midst. If members resonate with the word in season, they can share about what God has been speaking to them, either for their lives as individuals or as a church on a whole. If the members do not resonate with the word in season, leaders can encourage them to share honestly why they do not sense that God is doing a new thing in our midst. Leaders can encourage members to pray and learn to hear from God. If they are feeling lost, leaders can help to point members to Christ and encourage them to persevere in seeking a fruitful relationship with God.

Transition

As we ponder upon the word in season for us as RiverLifers, let us think about the abundant life that God has promised to each of us.

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2. Elder Ee Yang explained that a spiritual harvest is a celebration of an abundant life, blessings and fruitfulness through a relationship with Jesus. Are you experiencing this abundant life? If so, share your experiences. If not, what are some areas of your life that are preventing you from experiencing this abundant life?

Leader's Notes

This is a reflect and response question for members to share vulnerably about whether they are living an abundant life. If so, members can explain why and encourage other members with their testimonies on their walk with God. If not, members can share about their struggles and difficulties. Leaders can encourage members to trust in the Word of God and claim it for their own lives. Leaders can take this opportunity to emphasise the importance and power of God's Word. Leaders can also encourage members to not only read His Word but to let the Word of God transform their lives.

Transition

As we seek to lead the abundant life that God has promised for each and every one of us, let us consider what God has called us to do as believers in this world.

3. Elder Ee Yang spoke about our role in the spiritual harvest. Are we willing to be sent out by God to reach out to those who have yet to come to know Jesus as their own personal Lord and Saviour? What are the difficulties and challenges we think we could face? How are we going to overcome these difficulties?

Leader's Notes

This is a reflect and response question for members to share about what they have learnt from the sermon. Members can share about how they have been reaching out to their family and friends, and even those who are backslidden in the faith. They can also share about the challenges they face so that the cell can help provide suggestions to overcome them and pray for each other. Cell leaders can close this time by breaking the cell into smaller groups to pray for family and friends whom God has placed in our hearts to reach out to or bring to church for our Christmas outreach services.

Closing

As we begin this short 2-part series on "Harvest is Here!", let us remember that God loves us so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus to die on the cross for the redemption of our sins. May we be encouraged to partner God in the spiritual harvest and to avail ourselves to be sent out to reach the lost for Him.

WORKS

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. **Sermon Application**

- We will remember that constant reflection is key to our spiritual growth and maturity.
- God will show us the aspects of our lives that need strengthening in 2022 and for the Holy Spirit to guide us to continue to apply the lessons we have learnt from God in 2021.



2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- Praise the Lord for the removal of the vaccinated-differentiated measures.
- Pray for God's protection in the midst of a high number of community cases.
- Pray for protection against reinfection and the ill effects that it may bring.

3. World

- A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, if not a reduction in cases in third world nations, and a stable environment where humans and virus coexist.
- Pray for peace especially in areas of conflict (Ukraine) and potential conflict – China & Taiwan.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021/2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2022>.

2. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>

3. Nov-Dec Church Calendar

- 03 Dec, 4.30pm – RL Cares Community Outreach
- 17 Dec, 2.30pm – RL Cares Community Outreach
- 04 – 25 Dec – Christmas Evangelistic Services

4. **9M Ministry.** The 9M Ministry provides prayer support for expectant mothers on their 9-month journey of pregnancy. Sisters-in-Christ who are fellow RiverLifers are assigned as Prayer Buddies to walk alongside mums who sign up to receive prayer support.

Receive Prayer Support: <rlc.sg/9m>

Provide Prayer Support: <rlc.sg/serve>

5. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is <rlc.sg/podcast> or simply search *'The RiverLife Podcast'* on Spotify.

6. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at <rlc.sg/resource>. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.

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