

Jesus 101

“Grace Thoughts”



IF THE SON SETS YOU FREE,
YOU ARE FREE INDEED!
JOHN 8:36

A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

“Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.” —Matthew 9:38

When we arrived in Canada, the canola fields were ready for harvest, and the sight of the yellow fields in full bloom has stuck in my mind. A farmer invited my husband and me to visit his fields. I have photos where you can barely see us standing in the canola fields, because the plants were so tall. He gave us a ride in his new tractor and showed us his harvesting machinery, explaining and demonstrating its many functions. It was an awesome experience! I left amazed at his undivided attention to, and his unreserved investment in, his canola fields, doing absolutely everything necessary for a successful harvest.

As Jesus ministered from city to city, proclaiming the gospel and healing the sick, “He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd” (Matthew 9:36). There was so much to do! So many people to help! So many needs to provide for! So many lost souls to preach to! He said to His disciples: “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few” (verse 37). As a minister, I have often felt powerless at the same realization. The work is never done, and there is so much need and pain in this world. This is why I find great comfort in the words of Jesus that follow His observation: “Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest” (verse 38). Did you notice the possessive pronoun? It is His harvest! It is not ours to produce nor to take credit for. He provides what is needed, He knows the right timing, and He provides the workers. The outcome is in His hands! I am the type of person who can easily take on responsibilities that are not mine; sometimes I even try to do the work of the Holy Spirit. I want people to make a decision for Jesus . . . right now! God does empower us for service, as exemplified by the disciples going out in the next chapter (Matthew 10). But He does not give us control over the results, the timing, or the outcome. It is His harvest, and rest assured that He is more than invested in it! So invested, in fact, that Jesus died so that the harvest may be plentiful!

Talbot, Elizabeth *Jesus Wins!*, p. 254.