

## Opportunities Abound

John 4:27 tells us of how Jesus' disciples marveled when they saw Him talking with a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. Such an exchange was unusual if not unacceptable in light of prevailing customs of that day. While the woman proceeded to leave the presence of the Lord to tell all of the townsfolk of her conversation with Jesus, the disciples stayed and invited the Messiah to eat with them. He responded to their invitation with the words, "I have meat to eat that ye know not of." (John 4:32). Seeing their confusion regarding His response, Jesus continued, "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish the work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." (John 4:34-35). In making these comments, Jesus declared His purpose on earth and at the same time reminded His followers that opportunities "to do the will of him that sent me" were evident every day. He was seeing these opportunities. That's why He had been talking to the woman at the well. At this point, the disciples were not seeing them though. They needed a reminder that when it came to serving God, opportunities were not limited by times and seasons. Indeed, this still rings true today as we look about us and see that every day opportunities to honor and glorify God can be found in abundance.

On a daily basis there are souls who need to hear the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. The fields are still white unto harvest. The multitudes are still fainting, being scattered abroad as sheep having no shepherd (Matthew 9:36-38). Go outside your front door and look up and down your street. How many of those houses are occupied by non-Christians? Go to any store in town. How many of those men and women are lost in the world? Go to a family gathering. How many of your kin need to know the truth that can set them free spiritually (John 8:32)? Opportunities abound.

Every day there are brothers and sisters in Christ who need a word of exhortation. Paul wrote, "But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." (Hebrews 3:13). A card, a phone call or a visit can cheer a fellow Christian's heart today. Who among us do you know who is struggling with sin? Is there a brother or sister who is facing some personal challenges? Is there a member of the Lord's church to whom we just need to express our thankfulness for his or her dedication to the work of the kingdom? Yes, opportunities abound.

Each new day brings with it a need for prayer. The hymn asks the question, "Ere you left your room this morning, did you think to pray?" Is there any faithful Christian who can honestly say, "I can't think of anything about which to pray"? Two subjects of prayer (the lost and our brethren) have already been mentioned. Add to that our political leaders, the elders, preachers and teachers of the Gospel, our families, the sick, and the bereaved and you have a nice list already started. Now add your personal needs as well as thankfulness and praise to that list and you can see that every day opportunities for prayer abound.

Day by day there is also ample opportunity to study God's Word. Where in the Word does the Lord restrict the opening of the Bible to times of public worship and Bible classes? Where did any inspired writer even hint that we are to open the Word of God only when assembled with the saints? Each Christian is to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Timothy 2:15). Individually we are told to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." (Philippians 4:12). God's Word is the source of faith (Romans 10:17). Is your faith or mine so strong that we dare pass up a day to build it through the reading of the Bible? Paul warned, "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." (Hebrews 2:1). It takes a great deal of effort to build ourselves up in the most holy faith through the study of God's Word, but it doesn't take long at all for neglect of this study to cause us to become cold and uncaring about our spiritual well-being. Since God's Word is so readily available, we can read it every day. Opportunities abound.

Today you and I can do something to lead a soul to Christ, encourage our fellow Christians, pray, and study God's Word. What are we going to do with these abundant opportunities that God puts before us?

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