

35. Jesus expressed exactly what was His prime obligation and interest. His entire soul focused on the extension of His Father's outreach to humanity and identified the nature of His deepest appetite.

His

time on earth would be spent on an urgent Mission. He came to fill emptiness, to end darkness in the souls of men, and He would not find satisfaction in aught else until that was done.

Jesus then proceeded to clarify this point to His disciples with a special teaching.

"My disciples, listen to Me. This morning, as we came down the mountain road and beheld the fertile valley between Ebal and Garizim on the Plain of Machneh, I heard one of you remark, 'that valley is so green; it's so full of every kind of vegetation and fruit you would think it was the height of summer. And, Spring has barely begun. Just think, in a few more months those fields are sure to be bursting with bumper crops. What a pity not to be here for the harvest, to be able to sink our teeth into some of that delicious fruit when it ripens.

"Now, that was a good observation and our brother's appetizing wish was perfectly normal. All that he said made perfect sense. What I want to note is that it doesn't take much to observe what is already happening all around, or to speak out on what is on

everyone's mind. Even a child can forecast bumper crops and fruit after you see their flourish and blossoms.

"But, let Me tell you what is much more difficult. Just try to size up and predict the way human souls will turn out. Just looking at

their faces does not reveal their inner hurts and needs, nor do their present good characters totally insure a continuing virtuous future. When indeed is any soul ripe and ready to absorb Truth? Reflect now how very often life's ever-present temptations and vices infest and destroy the fruit of virtue that was promised. Can you ever predict people will come into a glorious spiritual harvest? I tell you this, souls have to be constantly and carefully cultivated every step of the way. Flourishing blossoms can end up producing a meager crop, but with proper care, an unpromising Spring can end with

a satisfying harvest. The conclusion is this: it is up to the spiritual caretakers to be responsible, vigilant, and cultivating; it is up to

Me and you to assist people to spiritual fruition.