

SPIRITUAL MAINTENANCE

Labor Shortage

Matthew 9:35-10:1

Jesus' Ministry

Matthew 9:35 (KJV) And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

- The mission Jesus Christ was to minister to people
- Jesus' method for ministry was simple, He **went out**
- Jesus' ministry was *everywhere*; He went into all the cities, the villages, and the synagogues
- Jesus' work in ministry was *preaching* (proclamation of the Gospel, *teaching* (explanations of the Good News), and *healing* (meeting the physical, emotional, and material needs)
- Jesus' *message* was the gospel of the Kingdom, the reign of God
- Jesus preached the Good News of the King, God Himself
- The ministry of Jesus also had its challenges, but it did not stop Jesus from preaching, teaching and healing
- As followers of Jesus, we are ministers as well

Jesus was Moved with Compassion

[36] But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

- When Jesus saw the multitudes following Him, He was moved with *compassion*
- What is compassion?
 - Compassion is to feel what the other person feels
 - You identify with the person in need
- Compassion is more than *pity* about the situation, it's actually getting involved in the situation
- Compassion is the deepest possible emotion because you are so moved by what you see, that it moves you to action
- In the parable of the Good Samaritan, the priest and the Levite had ***pity*** on the man that was beaten and left for dead, but they did *nothing* for the injured man; the Samaritan saw the injured man and had ***compassion*** and *helped* the injured man
- What did Jesus see?
- Jesus saw masses of people who were ***fainting***
 - *We all see people* who weary from the problems, struggles, and challenges of life and they are ready to give up
- Jesus saw people who were ***scattered***,
 - *We all see people* who are in situations that appear hopeless; they have no answers for situations they are in
- Jesus saw people as sheep ***without a shepherd***
 - *We all see people* who are just wanderers from one thing to the next, they have no plan or direction for their lives

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- It touched the heart of Jesus by what He saw
- We're seeing the same things Jesus saw, what will we do about what we see?

The Great Harvest

[37] Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous,

- Jesus didn't merely see the distress of the multitude, He was moved with compassion; He wanted to do something about their condition
- Jesus said to His disciples the harvest is truly plenteous
- Jesus' saw was an abundance of souls that needed Jesus
- Jesus wanted the disciples to see what He saw
- As Jesus' disciples, He wants us to see what He sees
- Jesus wants us to see the harvest is not only plenteous, but is ready *now* for harvesting
- Jesus wants us to see that this abundant harvest will be ripe and ready for just a short time
- This is a huge, ready and waiting harvest, but for a limited time only

The Laborers Are Few

"...but the labourers are few; ..."

- Jesus saw a huge harvest
- Jesus saw the people *ready* to receive Him were great
- Jesus showed them great opportunity in front of them
- Jesus also shared a great problem; a shortage of laborers to bring in the harvest
- What good is a great harvest if there isn't *enough help* to bring in the harvest?
- **If there aren't enough laborers, the harvest (souls) may be eternally lost**
- Jesus Christ needs laborers to bring in the harvest
- When Jesus ministered on earth, His ministry could reach only so many
- The problem today is a labor shortage
- Jesus needs laborers to share the Good News of Jesus Christ
- Jesus needs believers who are willing to work to bring in souls
- Jesus wants all of us to be an evangelist and a reaper
- Why aren't there more laborers? Why are there more believers sharing their faith?
- But you don't need a special calling, or be a preacher, or have certain spiritual gifts
- If the harvest of souls is going to be reaped, then every believer must become a reaper; there is enough work for everyone to do

Pray for Laborers

[38] Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

- Jesus tell His disciples to pray for laborers

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- The issues we see in our communities, our schools, at work, in our families, we need believers ministering those areas to those people
- We're literally *interceding* for laborers
- We're praying for laborers to be laborers of God
- People that are truly His are needed to do His work
- Our job is to pray for laborers
- That's why Jesus is saying to His disciples to pray that God will raise up laborers to reach this generation in their generation
- God does not want any of this harvest to be lost **2 Peter 3:9 (KJV) *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.***
- The harvest belongs to God
- Therefore, as laborers of God we use His message which is the message of the Kingdom
- Laborers are believers who don't mind working
- Real laborers keep working until the job is done
- Real laborers keep working until *our employer* is satisfied
- We see the multitudes just like Jesus saw them
- We get *involved* in their lives just like Jesus got involved in their lives
- God is looking for laborers; men women, young people and children to work and bring in this great harvest
- Our job as believers is to pray fervently for more believers to come and *help* bring in the harvest

You Are the Answer to Prayer

Matthew 10:1 "And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease."

- Jesus told His disciples in vs.38 to pray to the Lord of the harvest that He would *send forth* laborers
- When we pray for laborers, God, the Lord of the harvest will send them out
- As we pray, we must keep our ears open to hear Jesus telling us, *you* go into the harvest
- The disciples had been praying for laborers, not knowing they were the answer to their prayers!
- Just as Jesus called His disciples to minister to the lost as an answer to their prayers, God wants us to be answers to the prayer for laborers
- When the call comes, let us be like Isaiah and say, "Here am I, Send me"