

## **The Laborers are Few Matthew 9:35-38**

### **Introduction:**

1. It's always hard to find good workers. Out in the world, most business owners and managers will tell you that it's hard to find a person who wants to work - a person who will give an honest day's work for an honest day's pay.
2. Did you know that this is true in the spiritual realm too? Did you know God has the same problem? God seems to always have a "Help Wanted" sign out. vs. 37
3. It is hard to find people who want to go into the harvest field of the world and labor for God. People prefer to go to church, or go to Christian workshops and seminars, and talk about serving God while little or nothing gets done.
4. It is difficult to find believers who are willing to go into the harvest field of this world and work for God. One of the easiest places to serve God is right here in church (choir, usher, teach class, etc.).
5. But, God needs Christians who will commit themselves to God and say, "I'll go, and I'll be a worker in the harvest field of this world, and make an impact on this world for Christ." **Illustration:** Football team – if all they do is huddle, nothing gets accomplished.
6. Christ said that the harvest is plenteous. There are plenty of people in the world who are hungry for the message of Jesus Christ. But, Jesus said the problem is a shortage of workers.
7. The next four Sundays, we are privileged to have with us families who have chosen to be among the few who will go into God's harvest fields and labor for Christ.
8. Wouldn't it be something if you chose to become one of the few? Did you know that God can use you to make an impact on this world? You can be one of the few. You may ask, "Pastor Dan, how can I do that? What will it take for me to be a laborer for God?"

### **First, it takes a working knowledge of God's Word. vs. 35**

1. People in the world have many needs. Sometimes they have physical needs for clothing, food, shelter, or medical care. As servants of Christ, we can certainly help to meet these needs as a bridge for meeting their deep, spiritual needs.
  - Mankind's greatest need is a relationship with God. People need truth. They need real life. All of these come through Christ and His Word.
2. Jesus helped to meet people's physical needs, but then He taught them truth. Mark 8:36
3. Our missionaries do so much to help people on the mission field with physical needs, but our missionaries understand that they are ultimately there to give them God's Word.
4. The apostle Paul was the first missionary church planter. He started the church at Ephesus. Later on, notice what he reminded the leaders in this church. Acts 20:24, 26-27

5. Would you like to be a laborer for God? You may say, "I just don't understand the Bible enough to ever do that." Praise God, you're in the right place. Here at CrossRoads, we can equip you with a working knowledge of God's Word, and prepare you to go out into the harvest fields of this world and share God's truth with others.
6. To get a working knowledge of God's Word takes time and effort (2 Timothy 2:15), but it is worth it! Bringing in a harvest takes hard work, but the reward is the harvest!

### **Second, it takes compassion to heal wounds. vs. 35-36**

1. There were a lot of hurting people in Jesus' day. Do you think the same is true today? This is why we must take God's Word to them. It is God's very words that are the salve that heals wounds and restores people.
2. But, do we have the compassion to do it? That is the question. Do we care? Jesus cared (vs. 36). You will see multitudes in the next few weeks, as we have missionaries from all over the world show us pictures and share their burden with us to reach those people for Christ. We must be like Christ and have compassion. Jude 21-22
3. There is a sad verse in Psalm 142:4 – "...no man cared for my soul." Do we really care about souls? I challenge you to ask God to break your heart for lost souls these next few weeks. Ask God how you can make a difference, and make a contribution in reaching souls and caring about people.
4. Do you remember the story that Jesus told of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37)? Are we like the Good Samaritan? Do we really care? We may **say** that we care, but what are we doing to **prove** that we care? James 2:15-18

### **Third, it takes the heart of a shepherd. vs. 36**

1. God likens the world to sheep in Isaiah 53:6. This is so true. Sheep must be led. You can take sheep to the same pasture 300 times, and the 301<sup>st</sup> time they still can't find their way there. They have to be led.
2. This is like the world. People won't find Christ all alone. Somebody must care enough to lead them. **Illustration:** Acts 8:30-31
  - If not, rest assured Satan will be glad to lead them in his path.
3. God is looking for laborers - people who will go and work His fields and have the heart of a shepherd, leading people to Christ.
4. Sheep left to themselves will die. Mankind left to itself will die in sin, and spend eternity separated from God.
5. We, as believers, are in a vital position. We rub shoulders with people who could be a breath from eternity. We have the opportunity to help people like the families you will be meeting the next few weeks.
6. God may be dealing with some of you about surrendering your life to work God's harvest fields. You can do it. It simply takes a working knowledge of God's Word, a heart of compassion, and a shepherd's heart that cares about people.
7. The harvest is ready. God is looking for laborers.