

PRAYER – SENT LABORERS (Matthew 9:35-38)

- We will only advance in our evangelistic work as fast and as far as we advance on our knees. Prayer opens the channel between a soul and God; prayerlessness closes it. Prayer releases the grip of Satan's power; prayerlessness increases it. That is why prayer is so exhausting and so vital. If we believed it, the prayer meeting would be as full as the church. — Alan Redpath (January 9, 1907- March 16, 1989), British evangelist, pastor and author.
- **The introduction to the passage. (Matthew 9:35)**
 - a) The *outline* of Matthew:
 - b) This *event* occurred on the heels of Christ's rejection at Nazareth the 2nd time.
 - c) The *intensity* of Christ's ministry is seen by the imperfect tense of “_____.”
 - d) The *scope* of Christ's ministry is seen by the fact that He “went about _____ the _____ and _____”.
 - e) The *methods* of Christ's ministry involved _____ and _____.
 - f) The *message* of Christ's ministry at this point in time involved _____.

A. Jesus Christ's PERCEPTION of the NEEDS of the PEOPLE. (Matthew 9:36)

1. The *reality* of the people's needs is underscored by the phrases that “they were _____ and _____, like _____ having no _____.”
 - Do we view people around us like Jesus Christ does?
2. The *response* to this perceived need is that our Lord “was _____ with _____ for them”.
 - Are we moved with compassion for the lost and needy around us?

B. Jesus Christ's PROCLAMATION of the NEED for LABORERS. (Matthew 9:37)

1. This is because of the _____ of the harvest ... “The harvest truly is plentiful”.
 - Hasn't anything really changed in our day?
2. This is because of the _____ of the workers ... “but the laborers are few”.
 - Is this still true today?

C. Jesus Christ's PRECEPT Regarding the NEED to PRAY. (Matthew 9:38)

1. The *command* Jesus gave to address this great need was for _____ ...
"Therefore pray".

- How is this in contrast to our natural impulses?

2. The _____ of the need for intercessory prayer is underscored by "pray" (deomai) in the aorist tense.

- Do you see the need for prayer as urgent and primary?

3. The *direction* of intercessory prayer is to "the _____ of the harvest" who is _____.

- What does prayer to God like this reflect?

4. The *specific request* is the God would "_____ into the harvest."

- If God is sovereign (and He is), why do your prayer matter? What difference do they make?

- How does all of this apply to you?

1) The need for Gospel laborers constitute an _____ for intercessory prayer. Are you willing to pray?

2) The labor supply sent into the harvest is _____ to the _____ of believers. Do you believe that?