

## Matthew 9:35-38

Pray for Laborers

*Observe the populace ...*

- I. Vulnerable Sheep
  - A. Jesus' Observation
  - B. Endangered Souls
  - C. Need Shepherding
- II. Plentiful Harvest
  - A. Jesus' Observation
  - B. Ripe Souls
  - C. Ready for Picking
- III. Workers Needed
  - A. There
  - B. Here
  - C. Everywhere

*... see the need.*

**Children, Listen ...**

1. Why did Jesus feel bad for the people?
2. What did Jesus tell His followers to pray for?
3. Will you take a moment today to pray with your family for our pastors, church teachers and our missionaries? And that God would raise up more people to go out to bring the Gospel to others?

## Fellow Workers for the Kingdom

Jesus observed a lot of people in the increasing crowds that surrounded Him. To the naked eye He would have seen just what we would have seen. We would have seen smiles, scowls and probably some quizzical looks on faces. We would have seen men, women, teens and children eagerly gathering to see what Jesus would do next. We would see others with anxious countenances as they desperately made their way to Jesus hoping that what He did do next was a miracle for them or a loved one. As we followed Jesus from city to village, we would see rich and poor, healthy and broken, Jews and Gentiles, Religious leaders and Roman guards. But would we see what else he saw ... would we, do we see deeper? With Jesus we might see many people with distinctive outward features. But would we, like Jesus see as He saw time and time again - people with serious spiritual needs? Jesus saw people who were harassed and helpless, spiritually oppressed and weak in soul. Jesus reaction? Compassion. The idea behind the word we translate compassion suggests being deeply stirred in the core of your being (bowels to be exact). Jesus came to deliver people burdened under the weight of sin and the misdirected/corrupted man-made efforts of finding a cure. But He also knew that in order to carry on the work of what we know as the Gospel, others would need to be deployed to minister in His name. He had compassion and He knew there was a need for his followers to be like minded. His apostles and disciples would learn compassion. Have we? What do we see when we look at the masses?

Two things for our consideration: 1) Do we have enough compassion for lost souls to make us willing and ready to be workers for the Kingdom? Perhaps this is a matter for regular prayer. 2) Do we pray boldly that the Lord would raise up many more workers (perhaps even from among our own church) to become commissioned laborers in the ministry? Jesus says there's work to do – let's do it!