

“The Forgotten Field”
Matthew 9:35-38

Introduction: In this unique parable, our Lord compares the shepherd/sheep relationship with the laborer/harvest relationship. Both illustrations reveal what position the Lord holds in soul winning and our responsibility as believers in witnessing. Unless someone comes to their rescue, the sheep and the harvest are almost to the point of destruction. This is the situation of the sinner in the world. There is no hope apart from the lovely Lord Jesus. We hold the answer to their problems. It is our obligation to tell them before it is too late. Observe the duty of the Christians in relation to the field.

1. We are to Labor in the Field I Corinthians 3:8-9- “we are labourers”
2. We are to Love this Field Jude 1:22- “of some have compassion”
3. We are to Lunge into this Field Mark 16:15- “Go ye into all the world”
 - a. Because the Field is Vicious I John 3:13- “the world hate you”
 - b. Because the Field is Vile James 4:8- “Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts”
 - c. Because the Field is Valuable John 3:16- “For God so loved the world”

Body: Jesus, a sincere servant, went to the villages as well as the cities. He came to the poor and rich. His realm of service did not only extend to a select people. Contrary, it reached everyone that would hear. In each instance, the heart of Jesus broke for the scattered sheep and the plenteous harvest. Who would help them? Does anyone care? Hopeless sinners were the fuel that fed the fire of soul winning. Who will go? The Lord tries to convey this important practice to His disciples. He attempts to show them the burden for others in relation to the field. Notice four things that Jesus taught about the field.

- I. The Seeking of the Field Matthew 9:35- “all the cities and villages”
- II. The Sheep in the Field Matthew 9:36- “when he saw the multitudes...as sheep”
 - A. Their Strength- “they fainted”
 - B. Their Separation- “were scattered abroad”
 - C. Their Shepherd- “as sheep having no shepherd”
- III. The Sorrow over the Field Matthew 9:37- “the labourers *are* few”
 - A. The Harvest- “truly *is* plenteous”
 - B. The Helpers- “labourers *are* few”
- IV. The Sending into the Field Matthew 9:38- “Pray...send forth labourers”
 - A. Where are we to send? John 4:31-38
 1. We are to Lift v. 35- “Lift up your eyes”
 2. We are to Look v. 35- “look on the fields”
 3. We are to Labor vs. 36-37- “One soweth, and another reapeth”
 4. We are to Launch v. 38- “I sent you to reap”

- B. How are we to send? Psalm 126:5-6
 - 1. We must Sow v. 5- “sow in tears”
 - 2. We must have Sympathy v. 6- “weepeth”
 - 3. We must have the Seed v. 6- “bearing precious seed”
- C. Why are we to send?
 - 1. Their Need of the Saviour Romans 5:12- “for that all have sinned”
 - 2. Their Necessity of the Saviour Psalm 9:17- “wicked...hell”
 - 3. Their Neglect of the Saviour Jeremiah 8:20- “we are not saved”
- D. When are we to send? (NOW!) Romans 13:11-12- “the day is at hand”

Conclusion: Hundreds of lost sinners are dying daily. Who is showing them their need of a Saviour? Does anyone have a burden to see sinners made free from their bondage? Are we content with our four, and no more? Seemingly, the church is at ease in Zion while unbelievers are perishing minute-by-minute. It is time that the church awake out of sleep and go into the field to labor. God help us to grow (Matthew 16:18), go (Mark 16:15), show (II Corinthians 4:3), glow (Matthew 5:14), sow (Matthew 13:3), flow (John 7:38), and bestow (Malachi 3:8-10) our finances to reach sinners with the gospel!