

“The Prayer for Laborers”
Matthew 9:35-38

Introduction: This is one of the greatest passages concerning the need of laborers. It reveals the importance for the children of God to lift up their eyes and look on the fields. In these last days, it seems as if almost everyone is trying to relieve himself or herself from the work of the Lord. However, there is a great cry in the Scriptures that goes out for laborers for the Lord. Notice what the Bible records concerning labor.

1. The Selection of Laborers I Corinthians 1:26- *“For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:”*
2. The Surrender of Laborers Isaiah 6:8- *“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.”*
3. The Sending of Laborers Romans 10:14-15- *“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”*

Body: Why would Jesus ask for laborers? Apparently, our wonderful Lord could not do all the work alone. Even the Lord Jesus needed others to help Him in the great work of reaching sinners with the gospel. There was a great need of workers and the only way to get them was by prayer. If Christ needed assistance, how much more do we? Notice the meaning of this passage concerning the white fields and its desperate need for recruits.

- I. The Place of Labor v. 35- *“all the cities and villages”*
 - A. Jesus Came to the Prosperous- *“went about all the cities”*
 - B. Jesus Came to the Poor- *“and villages”*
- II. The Priorities of Labor v. 35- *“teaching...preaching”*
 - A. Concerning the Instruction to the Believer- *“teaching in their synagogues”*
 - B. Concerning the Insight to the Blind- *“preaching the gospel of the kingdom”*
 - C. Concerning the Infirmities of the Body- *“healing every sickness and every disease among the people”*
- III. The Perception During Labor v. 36- *“when he saw the multitudes”*
 - A. When He Went- *“he saw”*
 - B. When He Wept- v. 36- *“moved with compassion”* Luke 19:41- *“And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it”*
- IV. The Passion of the Labor v. 36- *“he was moved with compassion on them”*
 - A. A Love that Moved- *“he was moved”*
 - B. A Love with Mercy- *“compassion”*
 - C. A Love of Multitudes- *“on them”*

- V. The Purpose of the Labor v. 36- *“they”*
 - A. Labor to Strengthen the Failing- *“because they fainted”*
 - B. Labor to Summons the Family- *“were scattered abroad”*
 - C. Labor to Shepherd the Fold- *“sheep having no shepherd”*

- VI. The Perils of the Labor v. 37- *“the labourers are few”*
 - A. Notice the Abundance of the Harvest- *“The harvest truly is plenteous”*
 - B. Notice the Abandonment of the Harvest- *“the labourers are few”*

- VII. The Prayer for Laborers v. 38- *“Pray ye...labourers”*
 - A. A Personal Prayer- *“Pray ye”*
 - B. A Perspective Prayer- *“the Lord of the harvest”*
 - C. A Particular Prayer- *“that he”*
 - D. A Pleading Prayer- *“will send forth”*
 - E. A Profitable Prayer- *“labourers”*
 - F. A Prosperous Prayer- *“into his harvest”*

Conclusion: Matthew penned one of the most striking passages in the Word of God when he wrote, *“Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”* It is amazing that our Lord would ask His disciples to pray for Him to send laborers into the field. One questions remains. Did the Lord answer their prayers? Evidently, he did as we see in Matthew 10:1-15. God was able to send His servants because these disciples discovered the importance of pointed prayer. Now, the only question that remains is, *“Will you pray for laborers?”* Then, will you go after you pray?