

Harvest Workers

- I. Matthew 9:35-38 - We need to go so that we might see, we need to see so that we might feel, and we need to feel so that we might pray, and we need to pray so that the Lord of the Harvest will send out workers.

A. Jesus Went - Matthew 28:18-19 - The Lord has commanded us to go. Most of us don't go because we are more concerned about preserving our reputation than we are promoting His redemption.

1. Jesus wasn't - Matthew 11:18-19 - "*Behold, a man who is a glutton and a drunkard, one who associates familiarly with tax collectors and sinners stained with vice and crime.*" Wuest

"He's a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of the worst sort of sinners!" But wisdom is shown to be right by what results from it." NLT

2. There are two accusations made here:
- a. **That Jesus was a glutton and a drunkard**
 - b. That Jesus was the friend of tax collectors and sinners.
 - c. **The first was absolutely false and the second was absolutely true.**
3. It was because the second was true that the religious leaders thought the first was true.
- a. **They assumed He was guilty by association**
 - b. He was associated with them because he was called to them. - Mark 2:17 - "*It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.*" NASB
 - c. **Here is what was said about Him:**
 - *a friend of the riff-raff.*
 - ***a lot of disreputable characters came and joined them.***
 - *other outcasts came and joined Jesus and his disciples at the table.*
 - ***Why does your teacher eat with such scum?***
 - *Why does your teacher associate with men like that?*

4. This is the very reason why we don't really get involved in the lives of sinners because of our fear of being found guilty by association.

- a. The problem with becoming the friend of sinners is that they sin.
- b. **We can't afford to allow what people might think of us, to keep us from the mission that He has for us.**
- c. Charles Simpson and the house of prostitution
 - **For a moment he almost let the fear of a bad reputation keep him from finding and redeeming a lost soul.**
 - You can either seek to protect your reputation or you can seek to provide redemption to a lost soul.
 - **But a lot of times you can't do both.**
- d. Sinners need friends.
 - **They need the influence of godly people to help restrain the ungodliness in their lives.**
 - Our involvement in their lives will make difference

Isaiah 63:5 - "And I looked, and there was no one to help, and I was astonished and there was no one to uphold."

B. Jesus Saw - Its only as we go will we be able to see the condition of the multitudes

1. It is the same word used in in John 4:35-43, "*Lift up your eyes and look.*"

- a. Which means to view attentively, to learn by looking, to see with the eyes, to perceive.
 - b. **It means to see the sag in the shoulders, to see the pain in the eyes, or the desperation in their actions.**
2. By example Jesus is admonishing us to see the harvest differently. He saw it as bring ripe for the picking.
- a. **What Jesus saw drew Him, what the pharisees saw repulsed them.**
 - b. What others saw as closed hearts, Jesus saw as opened hearts.

3. I Samuel 16:7 - a key phrase-For God see's not as man see's.

a. Where is God's focus. Is it on how people are or how they could be.

- Book by it's cover. - Wino
- **Contents by it's package. - Wolfman**

C. Jesus Felt - If we go we shall see and if we truly see we shall feel compassion.

1. Compassion - Compassion is a mixture of love and sorrow, its an emotion that causes one to do something

a. It causes one to quit focusing on his or her's own needs and start focusing on the needs of others.

b. The best medicine for our problems is to get involved in someone else's.

c. Compassion will allow you to actually feel what others are feeling.

- **You will be able to feel the limp of the crippled**
- You will be able to feel the hurt of the diseased
- **You will be able to feel the loneliness of the outcast**
- You will be able to feel the embarrassment of the sinful

4. Once you feel their hurts, you will do everything you can to heal their hurts.

5. Once You are touched by their needs you will forget your own.

D. Jesus Prayed - Because three things happened when Jesus started going into the harvest.

1. He saw how plentiful the harvest is.

2. His compassion for the harvest caused him to become a worker

3. He realized the harvest is more than what one man can do.