TALK IT OVER

Be Still: A Series on Prayer

Asking for Workers -Ross Frisbie

Matthew 9:36-38

DT - DOMINANT THOUGHT

You are the answer to this prayer.

CONVO STARTER

What is something that you have been desperate for in your life? What did you do to achieve it? It could be a goal, a hobby, a career, an achievement, etc.

CONSIDER THIS

- Realize the greatness of the harvest.
- Recognize the shortage of workers.
- Request that the Lord send laborers.

KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

- "Twice Jesus is telling his disciples and his followers, and therefore us, to pray for more workers to be sent into the harvest field. Why did Jesus choose 12 disciples? Because there were 12 tribes of Israel, one disciple for each tribe. Jesus sends out 72 other disciples, and this was to mirror back when Moses freed the Israelites from Egyptian slavery and established 72 elder judges. These would become what is called the Sanhedrin in Jesus' day, which had 72 members." – Ross Frisbie
- *The Lord now chose seventy-two other disciples and sent them ahead in pairs to all the towns and places he planned to visit. These were his instructions to them: "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields. – Luke 10:1-2*
- "When you think about the greatness of the harvest you can be overwhelmed by how plentiful it is, by how many still need to hear and respond, but you also should consider the urgency of the harvest." – Ross Frisbie
- *You know the saying, "Four months between planting and harvest." But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe in harvest. – John 4:35*
- "It seems that the greatness of the harvest outweighs the number of workers in the field. Lots of people need to hear the gospel but too few of us actually do it. We don't need more spectators, we need people who are willing to serve, sacrifice, seek, share, and support." – Ross Frisbie
- *Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we wil be mature in the Lord, measuring up the full and complete standard of Christ. – Ephesians 4:11-13*
- "Notice whose field it is. Not mine, not yours, it's His. God owns the harvest and he has the authority to call, equip, and send workers." – Ross Frisbie
- *But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!" – Romans 10:14-15*

TALK IT OVER

Read Matthew 9:36. Realize the greatness of the harvest. The harvest that Jesus is talking about are the souls of those who are lost; the harassed and helpless sheep without a shepherd. There are people all around the world and all around our community who need to hear the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It can be overwhelming to consider the greatness of the harvest, how plentiful it truly is. So, let's start small in considering who God has placed around us and who God has given us the ability to influence. As Jesus says in John 4, "Wake up and look around. The fields are ripe for harvest." Our satisfaction in life comes from doing the will of God. **Do you tend to get overwhelmed about the size of the harvest or do you tend to not think about the harvest at all? Who has God placed around you that you need to start making an impact on for the gospel?**

Read Matthew 9:37. Recognize the shortage of workers. The reality is that the greatness of the harvest outweighs the number of workers in the field. Part of that is due to us being spectators rather than active participants. We do not need to be sitting on the sidelines acting like pure consumers in the church today. We cannot continue to hold onto this great gift of God without wanting to share that gift and light with others. Another part is that simply put by Jesus, "the workers are few." When we consider the past few decades of the changing cultural landscape with more churches closing than are being planted as well as less people going into vocational ministry training, there is a deficit. There is a deficit here, but a much worse deficit in many other places around the world. **Where do you need to step up in becoming an active participant in the kingdom of God instead of a spectator? How are you building or leading the next generation into kingdom work and ministry?**

Read Matthew 9:38. Request that the Lord send laborers. Instead of complaining or grumbling about the greatness of the harvest or the shortage of workers, maybe we need to just start praying about it more consistently. The harvest does not belong to us, but to God and He has the ability to call, equip, and send workers. We need to pray for more messengers, more laborers, and more workers to be sent into the ripe harvest fields that we are seeing today. **Do you pray to God for more workers to be sent into the harvest? What might be some opposition you expect to face in the harvest field?**