

04/18/04 – “WORKERS IN THE HARVEST”

Matthew 9:35-38 – “...The harvest is plentiful, but the **workers are few**. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.”

The harvest is inexhaustible, no geographical boundaries, all races, cultures, regardless of social or economic status

“*For we are God’s fellow-workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.*” – I Corinthians 3:9

Reasons we don’t work – fear, distractions, unmotivated, unfocused, interested in benefits more than burdens

“*...beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.*” – I Cor. 15:58

Story of Lydia – Acts 16:14 & 15

God opens her heart, “*And a certain woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, **was listening**; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.*” - She was just there...**listening & God** opened her heart

Is it possible in our day – Are there people who **are listening** when we say something? They can’t hear unless we say something

Faith comes by hearing & hearing by the Word of God...He who is wise wins souls – We need Holy Spirit to lead us in the work

Paul & Silas imprisoned in the inner dungeon, stocks on their feet - Acts 16:24 - If God doesn’t meet them at that point then they’re dead

Paul & Silas were praying & singing, & the prisoners **were listening** to them – **Somebody’s always listening**

Paul & Silas had been thrust into the harvest to do God’s bidding – obedient to the call...even in jail

Paul & Silas miraculously set free as were all the prisoners –everyone set free as God orchestrated the circumstances

The jailer was going to kill himself but Paul told him to do himself no harm. - The jailer with fear & trembling asked, “**What must I do to be saved?**”

God will meet us in a mighty way if we focus on the needs of others - Are we willing to take steps so the Lord can use us more?

Amazing things can happen when we are willing to pray & act - May our hearts be good soil 30, 60, 100 fold

It is important to have expectation in our heart – Let’s be praying for God to touch our friends, see them turn to Christ

How did we get saved? Somebody shared the message, lived the message, loved us, prayed for us...

We once were the harvest & now we’re the workers in the “plentiful” harvest...but **workers are few**

“*And Jesus was going about all the cities and the villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. And seeing the multitudes, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, ‘**The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few**. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.’” - Matthew 9:35-38...You & me! Will we work?*