

Looking for Laborers

Matthew 9:35-38 HCSB Then Jesus went to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness. **36** When He saw the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were weary and worn out, like sheep without a shepherd. **37** Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. **38** Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

John 4:34-38 HCSB "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work," Jesus told them. **35** "Don't you say, 'There are still four more months, then comes the harvest'? Listen to what I'm telling you: Open your eyes and look at the fields, for they are ready for harvest. **36** The reaper is already receiving pay and gathering fruit for eternal life, so the sower and reaper can rejoice together. **37** For in this case the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' **38** I sent you to reap what you didn't labor for; others have labored, and you have benefited from their labor."

INTRODUCTION: One of the issues the church grapples with is the need for laborers. Various methods have been devised for recruiting workers. While it may not be wrong to use a number of methods to discover, direct, and deploy workers we must never lose sight of God's way.

- 1. The Lord of the Harvest.** The Lord of the harvest knows
 - a. the *state* of the harvest,
 - b. the *shortage* of workers, and
 - c. the *source* of the workers.
- 2. Laborers for the Harvest.**
 - a. The Lord *directs* His disciples to pray to the Lord of the harvest.
 - b. The Lord is responsible for the *deployment* of personnel.
 - c. The Lord also *designates* the placement of personnel.
- 3. The Laws of the Harvest.** The laws of the harvest include
 - a. the *sovereignty* of the Sovereign,
 - b. the *supplication* of the saints,
 - c. the *sending* of the servants, and
 - d. the *sharing* in the success.

1 Corinthians 3:5-9 HCSB So, what is Apollos? And what is Paul? They are servants through whom you believed, and each has the role the Lord has given. **6** I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. **7** So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. **8** Now the one who plants and the one who waters are equal, and each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. **9** For we are God's co-workers. You are God's field, God's building.

CONCLUSION: Laborers are needed for the harvest. The simple sufficient solution to the shortage of servants is to pray to the Lord of the harvest.