

10-15-17

THE INGREDIENTS NECESSARY TO SUCCEED IN MISSIONS

Matthew 9:35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Matthew 9:36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Matthew 9:37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

Matthew 9:38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Matthew 10:1 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

This is missions month, And this morning I would like to share from our Lord's own teaching the ingredients that are key and necessary to harvest souls for Christ.

Jesus gave these principles to his disciples and what he taught back then is still relevant to us today.

To succeed in missions we need the following:

- I. THERE IS A NEED TO SEE THE WORLD AS JESUS SEES IT.***
- II. THERE IS A NEED FOR LABORERS TO WORK THE HARVEST.***
- III. THERE IS A NEED FOR PEOPLE WHO WILL PRAY FOR GOD CALLED LABORERS WHO WILL WORK IN THE HARVEST.***
- IV. THERE IS A NEED TO SEND FORTH ONES TO DO THIS WORK, PEOPLE GOD CALLS AND SENDS.***
- V. THERE IS A NEED FOR PEOPLE WITH THE POWER OF GOD ON THEM TO DO THIS WORK.***

I. THERE IS A NEED TO SEE THE WORLD AS JESUS SEES IT.

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Matthew 9:37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

There are always people who need the Lord.

Jesus saw the Multitudes, and look at how He saw them:

Matthew 9:36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Most people in this world are like sheep that have no shepherd. They have needs, they have problems. They have hurts, they have questions.

They are facing severe difficulties in this life.

They are dealing with sickness.

They are dealing with family problems.

They are dealing with the everyday trials of their life.

They are like sheep in the wild ready to be devoured of any ravenous animal that happens along.

This is how Jesus saw the people of this world. He saw them as sheep without a shepherd. People without Christ are like sheep without the good shepherd.

Without Christ, a person cannot say:

Psalms 23:1 {A Psalm of David.} The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Psalms 23:2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

Psalms 23:3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Psalms 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psalms 23:5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Psalms 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

The truth is the average person in the church does not see the world as Christ sees it. We have totally lost our vision for a lost world.

How can you help someone when you are in the same condition as they are. Can a drowning man help another drowning man?

Jesus had compassion on the multitudes. Jude tells us about having Christ like compassion but also warns us, at the same time.

Jude 1:22 And of some have compassion, making a difference:

Jude 1:23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Jude 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

The reason people lose their compassion for the multitudes who are straying is because, they themselves, are straying.

On some have compassion. These were the multitude that Jesus had compassion on. But others who were not his sheep he said, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees.

OTHERS WITH FEAR PULLING THEM OUT OF THE FIRE.

As we enter the last days, more and more people out there fall into this category and in reaching others for Christ we need to be careful that we do not fall into the same fire that they are in.

Paul said to the Galation saints..

Galatians 3:1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

They were bewitched by wolves in sheeps clothing.

Jude 1:11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

Jude 1:12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

Jude 1:13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

But Missions start with a vision of the multitudes who are lost without Christ. Even though we are in perilous times, even though evil men and seducers are waxing worse and worse. I believe there are many people that Jesus still sees as the Multitudes that are as sheep having no shepherd.

Missions starts with that vision.

We need to lift up our eyes just as Jesus did and see the Multitudes without Christ and have compassion on them just like Christ had compassion on them.

Matthew 9:36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Why have we lost our compassion for lost people?

Matthew 24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

Matthew 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

I believe that as we hob knob with the world.

As our garments become stained with sin.

We will lose our compassion for a lost and dying world.

Worldliness creeping into the church is destroying us from within.

II. THERE IS A NEED FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE A BURDON AND ARE PRAYING FOR THE LORD TO SEND LABORERS TO HARVEST SOULS FOR CHRIST.

After we get a vision for souls, and get a heart for the Lost as Jesus did, we need to do something about that burden and pray for labourers to reach these lost souls.

Matthew 9:37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

Matthew 9:38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Missions needs a group of praying people who are burdened to reach people for Christ. That vision involves praying for labourers.

There can be no harvest without labourers.

Most of the time we are praying the wrong thing. We usually pray for more people to come to church. We should be praying for more people to go out to help the Lost and unchurched.

The truth is the average person can say as the Psalmist.

Psalms 142:4 no man cared for my soul.

The harvest has not changed. There are no lack of hurting people out there.

God's method has not changed. What is needed is for someone to go to them that will care for their souls.

To reap a harvest there needs to be laborers to minister to the needs of people.

Paul the Apostle said,

Philippians 2:19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.

Philippians 2:20 For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.

Why didn't Jesus just invite all that multitude to a revival meeting?

Why didn't Jesus tell his disciples to build a building to house them and start a great church where they were assembled?

Why didn't Jesus tell those people to go back and be more faithful to the attendance of the Synagogue?

WHEN JESUS SAW THE MULTITUDES HE WAS MOVED WITH COMPASSION AND SAW WHAT THEY NEEDED.

They needed labourers who would care for their souls!

Look, I am going to shock you this morning. Totally shock you.

The average person does not care if the church grows and gets bigger.

I have been pastoring for 35 years and I know what I am talking about. The average church member says they want the church to grow but then when it does the new people that come to church annoy them. In fact, many people are so annoyed by new people that come to church that they, themselves, leave because it starts to be a hassle for them.

They get upset because of the conflict that occurs because too many kids are coming to church. And kids make a mess. They get upset because someone is sitting in their pew.. They get upset because more people mean more work and the problem is not for lack of people the problem is for lack of workers to help with the needs of the multitudes of people.

Why didn't Jesus just set up a tent in the wilderness and call it the Tabernacle Baptist Church? The reason why is because to effectively shepherd the multitudes there needs to be a ratio of labourers, to sheep and apparently the Lord said we lack labourers.

Which brings us to another question:

Why could the Lord not do it himself. Who knew how to do the work of the Lord better than He? Could he not preach and teach and was that not all that they needed? Apparently not. That was part of it, but not all of it.

Apparently not. The sheep needed the singular hand of a shepherd and personal one to one care. Do we think it is any different today?

III. THERE IS A NEED FOR US TO PRAY FOR GOD CALLED LABORERS TO GO.

**TO SUCCESSFULLY DO MISSIONS THERE IS A NEED TO BE GOD CALLED.
AND GOD CALLED LABORERS AND WORKERS TO WORK WITH THE
MULTITUDES.**

Matthew 9:37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

Matthew 9:38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

What is needed in missions is God called men of God who will respond to the Spirits call for them to go.

Romans 10:14 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?

Romans 10:15 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!

This was the passage that I was preaching on when the Lord called me to the ministry. What I realized was that no one will ever gets saved without a preacher, and the Lord ordains and sends men to share the good news.

The Bible also says,

I Thessalonians 5:24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

When I surrendered to God's call to preach God has been faithful in helping me fulfill the call in my life. His call is an effectual call.

Notice the text says,

Matthew 9:38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Pray the Lord will send forth labourers.

Exo. 3:12 The Lord said to Moses I have sent thee...

Jud 6:14 The Lord said to Gideon Have not I sent thee..

Ezek. 2:3 God said to Isiah I send thee to a rebellious house..

Exekiel 3:6 The Lord said to Ezekiel I sent thee to a people who will not hear..

Isai 6:8 The Lord Sent Isiah

Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

Jeremiah 1:6 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.

Jeremiah 1:7 But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.

Did Paul call himself to preach, was he looking to preach Christ?

Did Peter, John, and James just decide one day to stop fishing and follow the Lord?

All of us may not be called to go to a foreign mission field but all of us are called to be witnesses of Christ.

Mark 5:19 Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

At a recent funeral it was hard to figure out what to preach. What do you tell people who will not listen to the Bible and don't believe a word of it? You can always tell them what great things the Lord hath done for you.

Each of us are called to do that. This is our commission.

This is why we are here.

This is our call in this life.

Finally, to be successful in missions is we need:

IV. WHAT IS NEEDED IS TO SEND LABORERS WITH THE POWER OF GOD ON THEM TO DO THIS WORK.

Matthew 9:35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Matthew 10:1 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Now the harvest is the harvest and God still wants to have compassion on the multitudes. He empowered his disciples to reach the multitudes and He still wants to empower us to reach the multitudes.

He spoke a parable to his disciples.

Matthew 25:14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

Matthew 25:15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

Matthew 25:16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

Matthew 25:17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

Matthew 25:18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

Matthew 25:19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

Matthew 25:20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

Matthew 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Matthew 25:22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

Matthew 25:23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Matthew 25:24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

Matthew 25:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

Matthew 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

Matthew 25:27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

Matthew 25:28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

Matthew 25:29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

Matthew 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Did the disciples just conjure up the ability to heal people by themselves?

No. Our God is still the same God but in the parable the lord says he distributes his goods to his servants, talents, which is money.

Matthew 25:15 ... to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

God distributes to his servants who he has called to be his witnesses in this world world gifts.. every man according to his ability. Some more some less..

The thing is .. we think that just because some people have 5 talents and you only have one talent, that your one talent is less important than the 5 talents. No, God has given you the 1 talent as well. There are no big shots for God we are all His servants and we are all called to invest our talents to bring forth fruit for the Kingdom.

The harvest has not changed. The Lord did not say pray for the harvest, He said pray for Laborers to go into the harvest.

When a person surrenders to the Lord's call he will empower that person with everything they need to fulfill that call..

NOW THIS BRINGS ME TO THE CONCLUSION OF THE MESSAGE.

Everyone who is saved has the same basic calling:

You are called to be a witness at least to your friends, family and those around you. God has empowered you to do this.

You might say, Pastor I can't heal. I can't do miracles.

No that might be the 5 talents he gave the Apostles.

You might say, I only have one talent. YES. BUT YOU CAN INVEST THAT ONE TALENT FOR THE LORD.

The Lord never said pray for the harvest he said pray for labourers.

I remember when I was in Pastoral theology I had an old Pastor who was teaching the course at seminary about Pastoring a church. I remember him saying when he went to a church to candidate, and the leaders asked him how much money he needed to come to their church.. He always answered and said, lets first see if God wants me here and then we will talk about money.

When I heard that I decided that was exactly what I would do. So in September of 1983 when I first came to the church to candidate, that was exactly what I told the deacons of the church. The church voted to call me and then I said I would give ample notice to the company I worked for. So I decided to finish out the Christmas season with the company I worked for and I came as the interim pastor till Jan 1st 1984. We moved into the parsonage the week of Christmas 1983 and officially started full time in January of 1984. So this New Year 2018 will be the start of our 35th year of ministry at the church.. When I settled into the church that New Year we had a meeting of the deacons and Trustees to look over the finances. Mind you I was already Pastoring for 4 months and was still working a full time job. The church was giving me the typical \$50.00 a week that they gave people to pulpit supply, That was fine with me.

After we looked over the finances and looked over the average offerings I realized the church was in trouble financially. We were operating a school, had a lot of debts, a mortgage, and were barely making budget at that time. I think with the mortgages, and all the utilities, I told the trustees, just give me \$100.00 a week and I will see about working one day a week at my

old job. So that is the way it worked, for the first couple years. I made \$100.00 a week from the church and I made \$200.00 a week working on day a week for my old boss.

Then one Christmas season, I was coming home from work when I passed a bar that was packed out. It just didn't seem right that a bar room could be packed out when God's house was empty. So that night I vowed that I was going to quit my job and put an extra day a week into visiting to try and build up the church. So the first of the year I told my boss I was quitting. Boy was he mad. He had put me in charge of church sales and was upset that he had ordered in all kind of inventory for me to sell. Besides all this he couldn't understand why I would want to leave a job where I only worked 1 day a week and made twice as much in one day as I was getting all week working in the church. It really was hard to explain except to say, I thought God wanted me to.

That next year I got busy beating the bushes and the Church did grow but at the end of it all I saw that it was an unhealthy growth. I was wearing out people and it seemed people were getting burned out doing. Also a lot of the new converts had some serious problems that caused severe damage to themselves and others in the church. In other words we were not able to sustain the growth. I started thinking and realized that our church had a lot more workers when I worked. Most of the new people that came to the church were coming but they were not working.

Those few years I learned the hard way that what we need to pray for is not the harvest. The harvest is plentiful the problem is not the harvest the problem is the lack of labourers.

When I worked like everyone else in church, this meant that we all had to work and do the work of the Lord together. If naturally produced more labourers.

WHY DO YOU THINK PAUL WORKED?

II Thessalonians 3:7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

II Thessalonians 3:8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

II Thessalonians 3:9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

II Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

II Thessalonians 3:11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

II Thessalonians 3:12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

II Thessalonians 3:13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

Ephesians 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

If I had the ability to heal people like Jesus healed people this church would be packed with people but it would be to no avail. The reason why is because we would have the same problem

that Jesus had in John Chapter 6. Thousands came because he fed them in the wilderness but as soon as he preached they left.

The problem is not the harvest, the problem is lack of laborers.

The problem also is not just any kind of labourers, but labourers that have received power to be labourers. Those who are willing to invest their gifts that God has given them for the Lord's kingdom.

Acts 3:6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

Peter gave to this man what he had. The problem we have today is that because we cannot heal the man we think we have nothing to give. The truth is it is just the opposite. In America we have the silver and gold. It may be the one talent, but when we fail to invest what we have for the Lord, we fail the Lord.

Why did it seem our church was healthier when I worked? It was because I was in a position to give more myself.

I just did a funeral for a man that did not come to this church, nor do I believe he believed most of what I preach. He was a local businessman.

One day I was visiting him and he looked at me and said.

Preach you know Rev so and so he makes all these trips and goes to this conference and that conference, what does he do exactly to make money. He said, not you. You have your piano business I can understand that, but how do these other preachers afford to do what they do?

Look, we live in a day where people think christians are a bunch of lazy rascals that just are a lot of talk. Sometimes people are looking more at your living testimony than your verbal testimony.

Paul said look at the way we lived among you and do the same thing we did when we were with you.

Ephesians 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

If you will not invest what you have for the Lord's work, what makes you think God can entrust you with more? Invest it. Invest it for the Lord.

God gives you power.

exousia, ex-oo-see'-ah; from 1832 (in the sense of ability); privilege, i.e. (subj.) force, capacity, competency, freedom, or (obj.) mastery (concr. magistrate, superhuman, potentate, token of control), delegated influence:-authority, jurisdiction liberty, power, right, strength.

The idea is influence, authority, control.

If you own a car, you have power. How do you use it?

If you have a dollar in your pocket you have power.

If you have a house you have power. Have you ever used it for the Lord.

They say knowledge is power.

If you have knowledge to do things you have power have you used that power to win people to Christ.

Pray for laborers, that God would send, that He empowers to be witnesses for Him.

Conclusion:

To succeed in missions we need the following..

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- II. THERE IS A NEED FOR LABORERS TO WORK THE HARVEST.**
- III. THERE IS A NEED FOR PEOPLE WHO WILL PRAY FOR GOD CALLED LABORERS WHO WILL WORK IN THE HARVEST.**
- IV. THERE IS A NEED TO SEND FORTH ONES TO DO THIS WORK. PEOPLE GOD CALLS AND SENDS.**
- V. THERE IS A NEED FOR PEOPLE WITH THE POWER OF GOD ON THEM TO DO THIS WORK.**

Notice in Matt. 10:1, Jesus sends out the very ones that he told to pray for labourers. It all starts with seeing the need yourself.

Matthew 10:1 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.