

GOD WORKS ONLY THROUGH HIS CHURCH

Matthew 9:36-38

Introduction: We have but to read the newspaper or watch the news on television and it is very clear that our country is in dire distress, but not only our country, but every nation in the world. What is the answer? Who can we turn to? Who is to blame? What can be done? God has the answer and the answer lies in God's people, in God's Church. How does God work through His Church? When they PRAY!

1. Jesus taught His disciples to PRAY for the Lord to send workers.
 - Why for them to pray, wouldn't Jesus' prayers have more effect than theirs?
 - Wouldn't God end workers without somebody having to pray for them?
2. Jesus told His disciples to pray because He believed in prayer and knew what prayer could do.
 - Men of old had been given authority to call upon the powers of Heaven.
 - The work of the Lord was about to pass over into the hands of His disciples and the success or failure of their work would depend upon their faithfulness and prayer.
 - So many needed Jesus and He knew that He would not always be around to take care of them, so He was preparing His disciples to take over the work He had started and PRAYER was one of their main needs.
3. Jesus entrusted His disciples with His work and all depended upon them.
 - He gave them authority to go to God for workers to help and the number/supply of workers given was dependent upon their prayers.
4. How little Christians of today really feel and hurt for the need of workers in the fields of the world so white unto harvest.
5. How little Christians of today believe that their labor and needs depends on prayer.
6. How little Christians of today believe that prayer will really provide what is needed.
7. How little Christians of today really feel the need/burden to pray for the harvest and for workers.
 - Without their prayers, the white fields will go unharvested.
8. Jesus has surrendered His work into the hands of His Church.
9. The number of workers in the fields and the degree of the harvest actually depends upon the prayers of Christians.
10. Why don't we Christians obey this command to pray?
 - Because we do not have the compassion Jesus had for the lost.
 - When we come to love others as we do ourselves and we begin to live for God's glory, THEN we will accept the harvest as God's charge entrusted to us.

- We believe too little in the power of prayer that brings results.
 - We are not living close enough to God.
 - We are not surrendered enough to God's service to be capable of the confidence that our prayers will be answered.

11. Let us pray for the compassion of Jesus Christ and that the Holy Spirit will be able to assure us that prayer does prevail.
12. EVERY Christian is a God-called laborer/worker for HIM.
13. Let it be our prayer that the Lord will so fill us with the spirit of devotion that not a single member of our Church Family will be found standing idle or sitting around.
14. There is no empty position, no unfulfilled need, no need anywhere that God is not ready and able to provide, we need to do what we are supposed to be doing.
15. God has His time and ways, but the command to us is to PRAY and be ready to put our feet to our prayers.
16. It is a most sobering thought that Christ has turned the work He started (the salvation of mankind) over to US, to His Church and provides through OUR prayers the needs.
17. YOU and I are fellow workers with the Lord Jesus. WE are partakers in His great work of salvation.
18. Eternal life or eternity in Hell. It all depends upon US, Christ's Church. People just like us need us to do what we are called to do - pick up where Jesus left off.
19. What is wrong with our nation? What is wrong with the world? What will it take to bring our nation and our world to God? US! CHRIST'S CHURCH!
20. LET US GET BUSY DOING WHAT GOD HAS CALLED US TO DO! PRAY, PRAY, PRAY, PRAY!
GO! GO! GO! GO!