



Earnest Prayers for Earnest Laborers

Matthew 9:38



“And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.””

Matthew 9:35-38 ESV

Earnest: serious and zealous in intention, purpose, or effort. Showing depth and sincerity of feeling

“pray earnestly” in V.38 translates to DEOMAI, meaning:

- **to beseech; to beg, petition, pray, make request.**
- **A sense of pleading, with urgency.**
- **To implore, present emphasis to the need**

The Ministry of Christ (v.35)

- **Teaching Good Doctrine** *“And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.” Matthew 7:28-29 ESV*
- **Preaching/proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom** *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Luke 4:18-19 ESV*
- **Healing Every Disease and Every Affliction** *(Matthew 4:23)*

The Ministry of Christ (v.35)

The ministry of Jesus is an example of how we are to lead a life of ministry, a life of a laborer.

- **To Teach**
- **To Preach**
- **To Do (walk in His will and power)**

So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise... "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me." John 5:19, 30 ESV

“Into His Harvest” (v.38)

What is the harvest? (Multiple layers)

- **Contextual (immediate meaning in text)**
- **Continuous (presently/Church Age)**
- **“The End of the Age”**

“The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.” Matthew 13:37-43 ESV

“Into His Harvest” (v.38)

“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!””
Romans 10:14-15 ESV

“Into His Harvest” (v.38)

Characteristics of an Obedient Laborer

One who is devoted to God’s Will...

- A teacher of good doctrine (authority)
- Proclaimer of the Gospel, of truth (urgency)
- One who walks in the power of the Holy Spirit (submission)

“Into His Harvest” (v.38)

Characteristics of an Obedient Laborer

One who is devoted to the spiritual well-being of the lost...

- **Sacrificial**
- **Patient**
- **Inquisitive**
- **A good listener**
- **Humble**

“Into His Harvest” (v.38)

Characteristics of an Obedient Laborer

One who is devoted to discipleship...

- **Seasoned with salt**
- **Bold**
- **Full of faith**
- **One who prays earnestly for laborers**

“Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” Colossians 4:5-6 ESV

Earnest Prayers (v.38)

How do we pray?

*“Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”
Matthew 6:9-10 ESV*

Earnest Prayers (v.38)

How do we pray?

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.” Colossians 4:2 ESV

Earnest Prayers (v.38)

How do we pray?

“At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.” Colossians 4:3-4 ESV

Earnest Prayers (v.38)

How do we pray?

“Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.” 2 Thessalonians 3:1-3 ESV

Round-headed Knotweed, Bentley County Wildlife Management Area, Central Iowa



<http://iastate.edu/wmnpk/02>

Earnest Prayers (v.38)

“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.” 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 ESV

“As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” 2 Timothy 4 : 5 ESV