



The Lord Of The Harvest

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God created the entire humanity and is deeply interested in the wellbeing of His creation. He declared **"And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you" (Isaiah 46:4).** In fulfilment of the above, Christ, during His earthly ministry, was always moved by compassion and had insatiable desire to help people. These became the driving forces for His success in life and Ministry.

"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. 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. 37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:35-38).

In this text we see:

- 1) The coverage of the three-fold ministry of Jesus Christ - teaching, preaching and healing as He "went about all the cities and villages" (vs. 35). The teaching, preaching and healing were not by-products of the going, but the very essence and reason for going.
- 2) The healing was for "every sickness and every disease among the people" (vs. 35). No sickness or disease escaped the healing and delivering power of Jesus Christ. The same applies today as Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever more.
- 3) Despite going about all the cities and villages and healing every sickness and disease among the people, "when He saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scat-

tered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd" (vs. 36). The state, welfare and condition of the people was the focus of Jesus' ministry. No matter how tired or busy He was, if He found other people whose condition He could improve, He was bound to be moved by compassion into action.

- 4) Jesus saw beyond the physical needs of the souls into their Spiritual needs - for the harvesting of their souls into God's kingdom. "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few" (vs. 37). How true this continue to be even in our times. His ability to see beyond the physical needs of the people influenced Jesus' three pronged approach to ministry - teaching, preaching and healing. The meeting of their physical needs was always a tool to reaching to their spiritual needs (Luke 5:1-11). When the multitudes chose to focus on the physical rather than their spiritual needs, Jesus drew a line that focused on spiritual needs, irrespective of the outcome (John 6:2-69; Matthew 19:16-26).
- 5) He instructed his disciples to "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (vs. 38). Jesus was not daunted by the demand even-though the resources were limited. At the same time, He did not want the harvest to be wasted because of limited resources. He recognised the source of the resources and pointed the disciples in the right direction. Prayer changes both circumstances and people. If we will pray, then the Lord of the harvest will answer by sending the right labourers into his harvest.

Let us today heed Jesus admonition, and petition the Lord of the harvest for labourers.