

Multiplying the Laborers

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I. Introduction.

- A. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. (Matthew 9:36-38)
- B. The single great need is for laborers.

II. What is a laborer?

- A. A laborer is a disciple plus something.
- B. This has something to do with reaping. (John 4)
- C. The aim of the ministry is making disciples and making disciple makers.
- D. A laborer is a doer who is able to teach. (2 Timothy 2, Acts 1:1, Mark 6:30)

- 1. You first go from your study to life, not the platform.
- 2. You teach from what you practice.

E. A labor is a multiplier. (Acts 18, 1 Thessalonians 1, Isaiah 59:21)

- 1. It takes time to grow in discipleship, but the fastest way to grow is to learn our lessons as they come along.
- 2. A multiplier is exercising the “office of Timothy.”
- 3. A laborer is to be like a soldier who has his share of suffering (referring to courage - a mental willingness to endure danger) and his priorities straight, as well as an athlete who keeps the rules, and finally a farmer who works hard.

F. Discussion.

- 1. An able man is one with an ability to teach. Everyone has a gift, but there is a special need for the gifts of evangelism, teaching and administration in the ministry.
- 2. A multiplier should not organize any sooner than he has to.
- 3. A multiplier needs to get involved in his work and not delegate everything.
- 4. In organizing Jethro’s advice to Moses was to choose men, place them and let them.

5. Prayer is not preparation for the ministry as much as it is the ministry.

III. The importance of every individual.

A. Key verse: 2 Corinthians 5:18.

B. Every individual is important.

1. Everyone has value simply since they exist - by virtue of creation having been created in God's image.

2. It means that every person has significance or meaning to God.

3. We are to look at people by their potential like Jesus did.

4. God intended every life to be significant and useful to somebody.

C. Jesus showed an interest in the individual over the crowd and over his own personal concerns. (Luke 18)

D. Influence comes from people who make you feel like you are trusted.

IV. Discussion.

A. Love needs to be tough sometimes. But love needs to be.

B. God is looking for people to carry out his ideas, not people to give Him ideas.

C. There is no personality test that can help determine whether someone will be useful to God.

Application questions

1. What is a biblical laborer and what does he produce?

2. How is the importance of every individual related to the concept of laboring?

3. What principle stands out to you in the disciple building process? Explain.
