

Investing in Others

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I. Introduction.

A. Laborers is something we want to be and want others to be.

B Texts: Matthew 9 and Luke 12.

II. Matthew 9.

A. When Jesus saw people, he was moved with compassion. We on the other hand can get calloused easily.

B. Jesus put the spotlight on laborers who can help Christians as they go.

1. Laborers are disciples plus something extra.

2. That something extra is a worker. (Acts 10:38)

3. Jesus is the model laborer.

a. Christians need time to take in and not just do all the time.

b. This means first of all to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

1) This is more than having the Spirit.

2) We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18)

3) It is as simple as exhaling (confession) and inhaling (prayer).

4) Be sure there is no un-confessed sin. (1 John 1:9)

5) Having confessed sin, you can simply ask God to fill you and go on trusting that He has done so.

c. A laborer then goes about doing good.

1) The Great Commandment comes before the Great Commission.

2) Meeting people's needs comes first.

3) The Good Samaritan went about doing good, while religious leaders just went about.

4) Where there is sin, suffering and death a Christian ought to be there because he has the answer.

5) It helps to pray the day forward because it opens up the possibility to being used in the normal things of life.

6) We are to make disciples as we are going.

d. A laborer heals those oppressed by the Devil.

1) The Holy Spirit leads by a gentle tug in one direction. The enemy is the one who confuses and harasses.

2) We deal with the Devil's oppression by prayer. (Mark 9)

3) We deal with the Devil through the Scriptures. (Ephesians 6:17)

4) The emphasis on the Bible is Scripture memory.

5) Putting together Scripture memory, prayer and man to man and you can be a laborer.

Application questions

1. What three things that Jesus modeled characterize a laborer for Jesus Christ?

2. What activities differing from the previous question are typical of the laborer (more specific)?

3. Can you think of someone you can do good for? What can you do for them? Make a plan to make a small difference this week in this person's life.
