

Investing in Others

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I. Introduction.

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. (Acts 10:38)

2. Jesus is the model laborer.

a. The essence of the Christian life is letting God do something for you not vice versa. This is the Good News.

b. Being a laborer means first of all to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

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

2) It is as simple as exhaling (confession) and inhaling (prayer).
(Ephesians 4:3)

3) We need to have a good conscience—that inner freedom of spirit that comes from knowing there is no wrong that has not tried to be made right.

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

2) The Great Commandment comes before the Great Commission.

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

4) God makes ordinary days into something special when one is filled by the Spirit.

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 9:28-29)

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

Application questions

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

2. Which of the things do you find the most challenging? Why?

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.
