

Convictions

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I. Introduction.

A. Trust and obey is the bottom line of discipleship.

B. Text: Matthew 9:36.

C. Up until Jesus, religious leaders only harassed the people who were like sheep without a shepherd—Jesus Christ moved with compassion and actually cared for them. People ought not to be simply written off as lost.

II. The answer to the problem is laborers.

A. Religious workers are plentiful, but it is laborers that are needed.

B. A particular kind of individual—the laborer—is what is sought.

C. What a laborer is.

1. He is a common worker, not someone who seeks a title or a comfortable position.

2. He is one who is thrust out—there is no glamour attached to him.

D. The bottom line is an actual eagerness—Jesus Christ left the ivory tower to live with the people. We should ask Jesus for this same spirit. (Colossian 1:28-29)

III. It is dangerous to be caught up in the world's way of thinking—the things of God are foolish to the world. (I Corinthians 1:17)

A. Do not look to the world for wisdom but to Christ. (I Corinthians 1:26)

B. The lowest manifestation of God exceeds the highest manifestation of man's wisdom, so it is foolishness to look to men for wisdom.

C. We cannot go to the world to find out how to do the work of God if they do not know God.

D. We look to Christ for direction in ministry—He is the true wisdom. (I Corinthians 1:24, Colossians 2:9-10)

E. The bottom line then is to go to the Word of God for ministry and direction since it is the Word of Christ. (Colossians 3:15)

IV. You must be committed to the Great Commission and be convinced that a discipleship ministry is the way to accomplish it. (I Corinthians 15:15-16)

A. Your life can make a difference through disciple making.

B. The apostles reached all the nations through disciple making.

C. Their basic method was to win the convert and instruct the neophyte.

D. What is required.

1. Whole-heartedness.

2. Single-mindedness. (Joshua 1:7)

3. It all must be done in the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:18-19)

a. Ministering in the Spirit's power is a matter of reliance. (I Corinthians 2:1-5)

b. To be filled with the Spirit is to be controlled by Him. (Ephesians 5:18)

Application questions:

1. How are laborers the answer to the need for the lost?

2. What is the world's way of thinking concerning the work of ministry, and why is this dangerous?

3. What is required for service in the Great Commission, and in what area could you use the most growth? Explain.
