

Defining the Laborer

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I. Introduction.

II. Jesus was moved with compassion towards people's hurt. (Matthew 9:36-38)

A. The solution to hurting people is laborers.

B. We have to see the hurting person's perceived needs and his or her needs from God's point of view.

C. We have to take the time to see where people are hurting.

III. God is looking for laborers all the time. (Matthew 20)

A. It is never too late to become a laborer.

B. We need to ask ourselves whether we are truly laborers. (John 17:4)

IV. There are five characteristics/prerequisites for the kind of laborer God is looking for. (F.A.I.T.H.)

A. Faithful. (II Timothy 2:2, Luke 16:10)

B. Available. (II Timothy 2:3-4)

1. Entanglements are not necessarily sin.

2. These are the things that keep us away from God such as finances and family relationships.

C. Interdependent. (Romans 12, I Corinthians 12)

1. This means one has studied the gifts and understands his own contribution to the body of Christ.

2. We are to be rightly related to the whole body of Christ.

3. God can use all personalities in the church.

D. Teachable. (Proverbs 9:8)

1. The one who can handle a rebuke is wise.

2. When we start learning, we start dying. We must become flexible in the right ways. (Acts 18:24)

E. Holy. (II Corinthians 7:1)

1. We are to remove every immorality from our lives
2. We must deal with unresolved conflict.
3. We must forgive as Jesus forgave.
4. There must be evidence of progress here.

Application questions:

1. How would you characterize the laborer's mission based on the message?

2. Which prerequisite for a laborer would you rank as most important? Explain.

3. Which area will you work on in this week? How can you grow in this area?
