

EVANGELISM, MISSIONS AND THE POWER OF PRAYER

I. THE POWER OF A PRAYING CHURCH

A. THE NECESSITY FOR A PRAYING CHURCH CONGREGATION (Ephesians 6:18)

B. THE NECESSITY FOR A PRAYING CHURCH BOARD (Acts 6:4)

C. THE NECESSITY OF PRAYER IN THE CHURCH GATHERING (1 Timothy 2:1-8)

II. THE POWER OF PARTNERING WITH GOD IN PRAYER FOR EVANGELISM

A. Learning from the Master communicator and the need for prayer (Matthew 9:35-38)

1. The reality of the people's needs is underscored by the phrase...

a. *"they were _____ and _____, like sheep having no shepherd."* (v. 36b)

b. Wuest's literal translation: *"they were exhausted by their troubles and their long, _____ wanderings, and had thrown _____ to the ground in an utterly prostrate condition..."*

2. The response to the needs that Jesus observed was that *"He was _____ with _____."* (v. 36a)

a. Instead of exploiting the helpless flock as did the religious leaders of the day, their real needs moved the Lord's heart with a _____ of genuine _____.

b. Christ's disciples did _____ see the scattered people through the "_____" in which He saw them; *"But when He saw the multitudes..."*

* Are you ever moved with compassion for the lost? If so, what do you do about it?

3. Jesus accurately outlined the dire situation for His disciples...

a. The size of the harvest was incredibly _____, it was _____.
(v. 37a)

b. In contrast, the unfortunate reality was that the amount of _____ laborers who were prepared to _____ the harvest was pathetically few in number. (v. 37b)

* Has anything changed today in the Church age?

c. The scarcity of the laborers in view of the vastness of the harvest created an appalling situation, which _____ our Lord, for He _____ what would be their end.

4. Rather than be anxious or troubled by the circumstances, Jesus gave the needed resource _____ for the serious need; He commanded us to _____. (v. 38a)

5. In v. 38 the verb “pray” (*deomai*) is an aorist-imperative, and it has a great sense of _____ to it; this command must be _____ at once before it is too late.

6. Our intercessory prayers are to be directed to “*the Lord of the harvest.*” The Father is asking for laborers to _____ work His field while He does the _____ work behind the scenes. (v. 38b)

7. It is the _____ who will “*send out (ekballo) laborers into _____ harvest.*” (v. 38c)

8. A realization of the desperate _____ for prayer arises out of a _____ for a need to be met, be that need our own or that of others.

* What can you begin to apply today from our Lord’s appeal?