

JOB DESCRIPTION OF A HARVEST LABORER (Matthew 9:35-38)

I. We must be teachers (Matthew 9:35).

- a. This passage tells us that Jesus went about the area of Galilee teaching and preaching the gospel of the kingdom.
- b. This trait is at the heart of what we all are to be if we are laborers in the harvest of souls.
- c. You and I must be those that teach and preach the gospel to others.
- d. Teaching and preaching is the means by which the gospel is spread.
 - i. John 6:45.
 - ii. 1 Corinthians 1:21.
 - iii. Acts 20:20.
- e. This means you and I must know what we are to teach.
 - i. Not any message will do.
 - ii. Paul had gone house to house teaching, but what did he teach (Acts 20:25)?
 - iii. We have to know the gospel of the kingdom in order to be teachers of it.
 - iv. This requires us getting into the book and learning what it says then being able to tell others.
 - v. This is the model set forth by Paul to Timothy (2 Timothy 2:2).
- f. We can't be distracted by the world around us.
 - i. The best teachers we've ever had have been those who get immersed in the subject they are teaching.
 - ii. There are always distractions in life.
 - iii. Teachers keep teaching.
 - (1) For the Christian, this means we don't allow the world to get us off course.
 - (2) It's trying all the time.
 - (3) Satan works hard, especially against those who are striving to do right.
 - iv. We need to be immersed in what we are teaching and we do that by, just like knowing what we are teaching, getting into the book.
 - v. It fully equips us for what we need to do (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- g. We have to want people to learn.
 - i. The only to show we want people to learn what we have to teach is show excitement about the subject matter.
 - ii. Is the gospel important to you?
 - iii. If it is, you should be living it out in your daily life.
 - iv. We need to be that light to the world that reflects God's glory (Matthew 5:16).
- h. A laborer in the harvest for souls is a teacher.

II. We must be compassionate (Matthew 9:36).

- i. Jesus looked out on the crowd that had gathered around them and realized the spiritual state of the majority of them was not good.
- j. How many times do we just go about our daily lives and fail to look at the people with whom we are interacting?

- i. When we go to the store, do we notice who the person checking us out is, or are we staring at the cash register display to make sure the prices are right?
 - ii. When we eat at a restaurant, do we notice our waitress or are we simply staring at our menus and making our order?
- k. People all around us are hurting and in miserable spiritual condition.
 - i. The words of the verse, fainted and scattered abroad, paint the picture of people who are beaten up with the problems around them and are fallen down, prostrate on the ground.
 - ii. I know that doesn't necessarily come through in the English, but that is what those Greek words mean.
 - iii. There are people like that all around us.
- l. Jesus had compassion on them, which indicates feeling sympathy but also with a desire to do something about it.
- m. God had compassion on us, which moved Him to send His Son to die for our sins.
- n. Jesus had compassion on us, which moved Him to do the will of the Father and come and die for us.
- o. You and I must be compassionate on others because compassion has been shown to us.
 - i. 2 Corinthians 1:3.
 - ii. But notice the next verse (2 Corinthians 1:4).
 - iii. God will give comfort, but many times Christians are the tool by which that comfort is given.
 - iv. People are looking for a hand to hold.
 - v. They are looking for a comforting word.
- p. A laborer in the harvest of souls has to be compassionate.

III. Have the heart of a shepherd (Matthew 9:36).

- q. As Jesus looked out on a crowd that was spiritually bowed over with suffering, He knew part of the reason for their problems: lack of leadership.
 - i. One writer commenting on this passage said, "They were harassed, importuned, bewildered by those who should have taught them; hindered from entering into the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 23:13), laden with burdens which the Pharisees laid upon them (Matthew 23:3)."
 - ii. The scribes and teachers of the Mosaic Law had not done their jobs.
- r. The time in which Jesus lived, as far as the rulers of the day went, was much like that of the time in which Ezekiel wrote (Ezekiel 34:1-6).
 - i. The shepherds were fleecing the flock.
 - ii. Numerous times the leaders were rebuked by Jesus because of their treatment of the people they should have been serving.
- s. A shepherd takes his sheep to be fed and watered.
 - i. We need to take those people we are teaching to God's word.
 - ii. If they see it in us, they will want it in their lives.
- t. A shepherd tends to his sheep by taking care of their needs.
 - i. We must be compassionate to those who are hurting.
 - ii. God has done it for us and called us to do it for others.
- u. Jesus is the Chief Shepherd and not all of us are shepherds over the congregation, I understand that.

v.However, there are people who will follow us to Jesus if we will shepherd them to Him.