

## ***“Pray to the Lord of the harvest...” Luke 10:2***

The key to bringing in the harvest, according to Jesus, is workers who are raised up as a result of prayer (Luke 10:2). **The need is not a greater harvest, but for more workers to be sent out into the harvest.** The reaching of more people and the planting of a presence in more regions, according to Jesus, is a worker issue. And, here’s a truth that is important for us to remember: **The workers are IN the harvest!**

Jesus gives us a description of the harvest. It is plentiful. And then He gives us a prescription. That is prayer. All Jesus tells us to do is pray. The reason? The need is for workers to be sent out into the harvest, and God is the one who raises up the workers. We are not in the creation business. Only God is. We can develop workers once they are raised up, but we cannot create them. Only God can.

John DeVries illustrates the importance of prayer:

*Prayer is the relationship in which we stop, right where we are, and are filled with the Holy Spirit. Without Him we can do nothing. “Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me” (John 15:4). Just as a branch apart from the life of the vine is fruitless, so we are empty apart from the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.<sup>1</sup>*

Take some time to read and then pray about Exodus 16:1-35.

*“A disparity between what we need and what we have leads to a sense of desperation, and desperation leads to a recognition of our total dependency on God, which leads us to cry out to heaven.”*

- Day One – Ask God to make us as hungry for HIS work of raising up workers for the harvest as Israel was hungry for food from heaven. As long as we think the work of raising up workers for the harvest is our work, we are going to be limiting the work God wants to do through us!
- Day Two – Ask God to help us become comfortable with, and in fact, for it to be preferable that we live with, a total sense of desperation and dependency on God for the workers (manna from heaven) that are needed for the vast harvest around us.
- Day Three – Ask God to help us see and gather the workers (manna from heaven) that He has already given us and who are already laboring alongside of us.
- Day Four – Ask God to help us call others together to pray for the harvest and to pray for God to raise up workers for the harvest. May our network of prayer partners multiply!
- Day Five – Ask God to help us to be faithful with the workers (manna from heaven) He provides, and to follow His instructions and leadership in the development of them.
- Day Six – Ask God to raise to raise up more workers than our current system can contain, so that our container is burst and we therefore have to rethink how we do what we do so that we no longer keep using such limiting containers and systems.
- Day Seven – Ask God to make us His own “manna from heaven,” bread in the hands of the Savior, blessed and willing to be broken, like the loaves in Jesus’ hands in Mark 6, ready to be offered to the world on His behalf.

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<sup>1</sup> John DeVries, *Why Pray?* (Colorado Springs, CO: Cook Communications Ministries, 2005), 43.