

Tuesday, June 2, 2020
Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'"
Matthew 9: 36-38

Jesus is filled with compassion much more than he is filled with anger. How blessed we are that that is the case. He looks at the people of this world, including you and me, and sees us as needing to be led. He sees us as sheep in need of a shepherd. Without Jesus, people are lost. They are wandering around aimlessly, thinking they know what life is all about, but in reality they are absolutely confused.

That's how Jesus sees those who don't know him. He sees people as "harassed and helpless." Who is harassing them? Ultimately, it is Satan who is harassing people. He is confusing them and leading them into all kinds of harmful activities. People often think they are doing the right thing, but in reality they are stumbling in the dark.

Jesus says the "harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." In other words, the ratio of believers to unbelievers is woefully lopsided. This is why he says, "therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest field." What will these laborers do? They will share the Good News of the Gospel. They will tell people that the Lord of the universe loves them dearly, and wants them to experience life in the fullest.

It's so easy for you and me to throw up our hands and feel nothing but anger and hopelessness about the direction that our world is headed. Jesus sees it too. This is why he says that we need more "laborers." We need more of us who will let the Holy Spirit work through us with our words and loving actions.

So, are you a "pray-er" or are you a "laborer"? Someone has to pray and someone has to labor – that is, share the message of the cross with the harassed and helpless. Thank God someone told you and me about Jesus ... right? Those who know Jesus as Lord and Savior are no longer harassed and helpless. We are the laborers who have the message that our lost world needs. It's not easy to look at the world and feel compassion. It is so much easier to look at the world and feel frustration and anger. But I need to remember that when Jesus looked at me, he had compassion on me, and saw that I was lost without him.

If you can't see yourself as a "laborer," then please pray for those who are "laborers." They are walking faithfully into the darkness of this world with the Light of the Gospel. The world needs them, and they need our prayers.

God's peace!
Pastor Jim