

## Faith in the Home

Third Sunday after Pentecost, Matthew 9:35-10:8, "There Still is a Harvest."

What does your faith in Jesus mean to you? Is there a person who was instrumental in helping your faith? How much does that person mean to you? Christ has remade you, so you can do the same for someone else. In the Old Testament lesson that was read today from Exodus 19, God tells His people Israel, that they are a holy nation, a priesthood of believers. Not only does this mean that they are made beautiful and valued by God, but this means that they get to share the message of salvation.

This takes us to Matthew 9, where Jesus sends out His disciples. He said, "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." The harvest meaning people ready to receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

When you look at the world today it is easy ask, "Is the harvest really plentiful? Are there really people who want to receive Jesus Christ?" It may not seem so. Church attendance is down throughout the nation. The culture is shifting away from God and becoming more secular and demonic. But regardless of the shape of the culture, or the size of the Church. Jesus redeemed you, and all of the Church to be a holy priesthood. Regardless of the size of the potential harvest, Jesus told His disciples the harvest was plentiful in a time of political and cultural unrest in Judea. That applies to us today. In the same way regardless of the shape of things we are commanded to pray earnestly to Lord to send out laborers into the field.

So, we pray for more witnesses (and pray for the shortage of pastors), and we know that whatever we ask for in Christ's name, God will give to us. Why? Because He listens to His children and keeps His promises to us. We are His royal priesthood. We get to share the lifesaving faith with others. Not only are you redeemed by Christ, but you get to share this message. We are all Christ's masterpiece, and you may be part of another person's testimony of faith. You get to be a part of some one's salvation story. You get to be an instrument that God uses to save another person from Hell.

### ***Some things to consider:***

1. Hey dads, your involvement at worship, your prayer life, your teaching of the faith in the home, and your example is paramount to your child's faith development. Moms, this is the case for you as well, but sociological studies largely indicate that a home where

the father is active in the faith is more likely to pass the faith along to their children than a household where dad is not involved in the faith. Single mom's do not despair. God promises to be the father to the fatherless. Both moms and dads are important that is why God made us the way He did, and designed marriage for us.

2. The field where your harvest is wherever you are. Its fine to go on mission trips and to serve in soup kitchens. However, your home, your work, your circle of friends. This is your field.

3. Pray for pastors and pray for more men to go become pastors. There is shortage of men going to the seminaries.

4. God will build the Church. He does the saving, you don't. We just get to be part of His love for people.

5. About 6% of people come to Church because a pastor invited them. About 6% of people come to church because of the work of an outreach board. It is estimated that 88% of new church goers go because a friend invited them. Go build those relationships. Let people know you care, so that they will care about what you know, don't be afraid to invite those closest to you to come to worship.