

Sermon Title: The Parameters of a Harvest Laborer

Sermon Text: Various Scriptures

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to imitate the parameters of a Harvest Laborer.

Sermon Proposition: There are 3 mandatory parameters of an effective Harvest Laborer.

Introduction:

“Extreme Power Bangladesh: Abdullah

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. – Acts 1:8

Since Abdullah accepted Jesus, his family had tried very hard to change his mind. After all, his father was a respected man in their village and in all of Bangladesh, having built a mosque right next to their property.

When talking didn't convince Abdullah to return to Islam, they resorted to beating him. When beating him didn't work, they called others in to beat him more severely. Nothing worked; Abdullah tenaciously hung on to his faith in Christ. Finally, in exasperation, his mother stopped feeding him, putting only ashes on his plate. Abdullah prayed for God's strength, and he stood strong. As a last resort, the family called on the mullah (an Islamic religious leader) to come and hold an Islamic ceremony to rid the boy of the ‘devil’ that had taken over his life. The mullah came to their home and recited Muslim prayers over the boy. He chanted. He laid hands on the boy. He danced and he yelled. The Spirit inside Abdullah stood fast. After five hours, the mullah gave up, exhausted. ‘Abdullah’s Spirit is more powerful than my spirit,’ he told the boy’s father as he left. Abdullah couldn't be turned away, and he couldn't be stopped from sharing that powerful Spirit with others. In a few short months, he had led twenty-seven Muslims to faith in Christ, infusing them all with the Spirit of Christ!

In an attempt to creatively deal with a potential energy crisis, modern engineers are attempting to design cars that run entirely on battery power. The hitch is that the cars must have access to a power source to recharge their batteries. As it is, the concept is still so new that the stations with the auxiliary power chargers are few and far between. Without a power source, the car is helpless. In the same way, Christians who attempt to be effective witnesses apart from the power of the Holy Spirit are equally helpless. Along with learning the word of God, we must rely on the Holy Spirit for wisdom, protection, and power in our witness. Are you trying to do things in your own strength for Jesus instead of allowing His power to flow through you?”

[Taken from Extreme Devotions, The Voice of the Martyrs' app available on iTunes

(<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/prayer-calendar/id432550884?mt=8>) or Google Play

(<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.persecution.prayercalendarhd>)]

- Don't grieve
Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
- Don't quench
1 Thessalonians 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit.
- Be filled
Ephesians 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

I. The proclamation story of a Harvest Laborer. (Matthew 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-48**)**

II. The purpose statement of a Harvest Laborer. (Matthew 28:19-20**)**

III. The power station of a Harvest Laborer. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8**)**

I. The proclamation story of a Harvest Laborer. (**Matthew 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-48**)

A. The objective of the proclamation story. (**Mark 16:15-16**)

1. Preach the Gospel to every creature. V.15 (**Psalm 22; Isaiah 53**)

Psalm 16:10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

Isaiah 2:1-4 The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
2 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days *That* the mountain of the LORD'S house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. **3** Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. **4** He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.

Isaiah 49:6 Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

As someone said, "The Church that lives for itself will die by itself."

2. Prepare people for the consequences. V.16

B. The outworking of the proclamation story. (**Luke 24:46-48**)

1. The 1st outworking is repentance from sins. V.47a

Repentance is the foundational biblical, spiritual act that moves the heart in the direction of salvation. It is the turning from sin's presence, power, dominance, and consequences to righteousness. It is not the idea of simply feeling or emotional response about one's circumstances, or condition, or even the consequences that result from one's sins, but a conviction f mourning over the resulting reality of one's sinfulness, that is in light of the gospel and initiated by the Holy Spirit. (**Luke 13:1-9**)

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

Luke 1:77 To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins,

2. The 2nd outworking is remission of sins. V.47b

Jesus delegated to His disciples the authority to announce the King's edict pertaining to access or disbarment from God's Kingdom based on the reception or rejection of the Gospel message.

John 20:20-22 When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. **21** So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." **22** And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 16:19 "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

- C. The object of the proclamation story is Jesus Christ. V.46-47c
The proclaiming in the name of Jesus that there is forgiveness of sin, is to be consistent with the character of Who He is in all His fullness.

II. The purpose statement of a Harvest Laborer. (Matthew 28:19-20**)**

Genesis 22:18 "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

1 Kings 8:41-43 "Moreover, concerning a foreigner, who *is* not of Your people Israel, but has come from a far country for Your name's sake **42** `(for they will hear of Your great name and Your strong hand and Your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this temple, **43** "hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You, that all peoples of the earth may know Your name and fear You, as *do* Your people Israel, and that they may know that this temple which I have built is called by Your name.

- A. The mandate to make disciples. V.19b

The global command to reach the entire human race, extends the responsibility for evangelism from the Old Testament, to the apostles, to the disciples of all ages.

- B. The mode for making disciples v.19a

1. Go v.19a
2. Baptize v.19c
3. Teach v.20a
4. Remember v.20b

Swiss theologian Emil Brunner once wrote "A Church exists by missions as a fire exists by burning."

- C. The might for making disciples. V.20c

III. The power station of a Harvest Laborer. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8**)**

Luke 24:49 "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

Someone has said, "that 95% of what is happening in many evangelical churches could be done without the Holy Spirit." Christian ministry is ministry in the Spirit.

The promise of the Father that would grant them divine (dunamis) power to witness is the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.

- A. The promise stated. (**Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8**)

- B. The promise sent. (**Acts 2:1-4**)

- C. The promise serving.

(**Acts 1:8; 3:15; 5:32; 10:39; 13:31; 22:15; 26:16; 8:14-16; 10:44-48; 19:1-7**)

Conclusion: This attitude of dependency on the Holy Spirit is well expressed in a story that Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones told about an old Welsh preacher who was preaching at a convention in a small town.