

Title: Workers in the Harvest: Answering God's Call to Labor in His Kingdom

Sermon Summary: Delivered on Labor Day weekend, this sermon draws from Mark 6 and Matthew 9 to challenge believers to move beyond passive Christianity into active participation in God's harvest. The pastor emphasizes that the harvest of souls is plentiful but workers are few, and that Christ's call to his disciples was not merely historical but is a present and ongoing commission to every believer. Using the agricultural imagery of sowing and reaping from 2 Corinthians 9 and Galatians 6, the sermon makes clear that what a believer sows in faith, effort, and generosity determines what is reaped, both in eternal impact and in personal spiritual growth. The central tension explored is the tug of war between comfortable, passive Christianity and the surrendered, active faith that Christ modeled and demands. The sermon calls believers to stop writing their "ought-to biography" and start stepping into the work God has prepared for them, trusting that he will provide everything needed for the journey.

Key Points:

- The harvest of souls is abundant, but God needs willing workers, and prayer for workers is the starting point, with the understanding that those who pray must be willing to become the answer to their own prayer
- Faith is not merely belief or agreement but trust that moves into action, and where faith is absent, God is limited in what he can accomplish through a person or community
- American Christianity often takes the comfortable pieces of the gospel while avoiding the cost of surrender and active service, which does not reflect the Christianity seen in the book of Acts or in the teachings of Christ
- Sowing generously, whether in finances, time, effort, or witness, results in a generous harvest, while sowing sparingly produces little fruit in return
- God is able to supply everything a believer needs to do his work, and his call to go often comes before the feeling of readiness or the presence of resources
- Repentance is not a minor adjustment but a complete change of direction, mind, and heart that involves confession and a return to God

- Believers are called to be visible and hard to hide, letting the light of Christ shine in ways that cause others to ask what is different about them
- The story of Mark Grantham, who received a lung transplant and immediately used his recovery as a platform for witness, illustrates what it looks like to see every circumstance as an opportunity for God to be glorified

#### Scripture Reference:

- Mark 6:6-13, in which Jesus sends the twelve disciples out two by two with authority over evil spirits and instructions to take nothing for the journey, trusting God to provide
- Matthew 9:35 through Matthew 10, in which Jesus sees the crowds with deep compassion, describes them as harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd, declares the harvest plentiful and the workers few, and calls his disciples to pray for workers before sending them out
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-11, which teaches that whoever sows sparingly reaps sparingly and whoever sows generously reaps generously, and that God loves a cheerful and generous giver whom he will supply with all they need
- Galatians 6:6-10, which warns that God will not be mocked and that a person reaps what they sow, encouraging believers not to grow weary in doing good because a harvest will come in due time

#### Stories:

- Mark Grantham, a church member who received a lung transplant within a single week of being placed on the waiting list, and who immediately began using his recovery in the ICU as an opportunity to witness to medical staff, including an orderly who returned after a twelve-hour shift to talk with Mark for another hour about faith, life, and Christ
- The calling of Peter, James, John, and Andrew from their fishing boats in Luke 5, in which Jesus produced a miraculous catch of fish at the wrong time of day after a fruitless night, leading Peter to fall before Jesus in recognition of his own sinfulness, and Jesus responding by calling them to become fishers of men
- The parable of the sower, referenced to illustrate how the gospel seed should be scattered generously across all kinds of soil, because even one seed that takes root can produce a harvest of two hundred to three hundred fold

- The pastor's own story of being sent into ministry by God one year into Bible college, before he felt prepared or capable, paralleling the disciples being sent out before they felt ready
- The pastor's childhood on a farm, used to illustrate how workers begin by riding along and opening gates before they are given real responsibilities, and how the nature of farming, planting what you expect to harvest, reflects spiritual truth about sowing and reaping