

| TOGETHER |

WE PRAY

June 2023

A guide for interceding for the advance of the gospel

THEN HE SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, "THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL BUT THE WORKERS ARE FEW. ASK THE LORD OF THE HARVEST, THEREFORE, TO SEND OUT WORKERS INTO HIS HARVEST FIELD."

MATTHEW 9:37-38

Throughout church history, praying the scriptures has been one of the best ways to pray when searching for words to pray. As we "listen" to Jesus' admonition and encouragement to pray, the Holy Spirit can stir us specifically to pray for those whom God has called us to not only pray for, but reach out to. I have often prayed that the Lord would send other Christians to friends and family that I don't live near, or who have said they don't want to hear about God anymore from me. In the same way, I want to be willing to be an answer to another believer's prayer if God is trying to send me to reach their loved ones.

In Matthew 9, Jesus is ruffling a lot of feathers! He goes from healing a paralyzed man, getting accused of blasphemy for forgiving sins, being questioned as to why he and his disciples don't fast, to healing a woman bleeding for 12 years on his way to heal a 12 year old girl. Since he missed his chance to heal the girl, he raises her from the dead instead! To add to the finale, Jesus heals 3 more people before being accused of doing all this through satan's power.

In the midst of all this commotion, Jesus goes through every town and village, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the kingdom & healing every sickness and disease. Then, He gives his disciples one simple prayer to pray: *"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*

This is a challenging prayer to pray because immediately after the prayer, Jesus sent the disciples out to do what He had been doing! First pray, then act. And when it was time to act, it was not in their own power, because "He gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness." Matthew 10.1

Lest we think this is only for the elite Christians of our day – the pastors and elders, the priests and leaders—we need to look at the text again and know as we pray that WE are the ones Jesus is calling and sending (in Luke 10, Jesus sends 72 unnamed disciples).

With this sending in mind, allow the Holy Spirit to lead your prayer.

- Pray that commotion in the form of distraction or opposition or etc would not be able to detract from our mission.
- Pray that God would send workers into the harvest fields of education, government, family, entertainment, economics, media, and religion. Pray for the workers whom you may know in these fields.
- Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to move in power through the people of God.
- Listen to how, to whom He may be prompting you to engage.