

Old Man – New Man “Program 11”

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Radical Prayer

A definition of radical is something extreme, a revolutionary concept, holding strong views, not ordinary, etc. Normally we wouldn't connect the previous ideas to prayer because for some reason we think of prayer as dull and even meaningless. However, there's a particular prayer that can turn things “right-side-up” in our Christian experience.

Declare

1. What has been your honest experience in the area of prayer? Struggle? Unanswered prayers?
 - a. _____
2. This “Radical Prayer” we are focusing on is one that goes beyond our personal agenda. How often do you pray for the church's success or ability to reach out to the community? Why?
 - a. _____
3. What difference will it make for you to change your perspective in your prayer life and to focus more on the spreading of God's Word?
 - a. _____

Dig

4. Read Luke 10:1-12, 17-20. What impresses you the most from this story?
 - a. _____
5. Luke 10:1-2 indicates that 70 disciples were being sent and Jesus' preparation for this mission starts with “pray for more laborers.” Why are more laborers needed? Are the present laborers being faithful in their work?
 - a. _____
6. There are two perspectives from this concern that Jesus has: one is that we don't have enough workers to gather the harvest, and the second one is to think there's no possibility of a harvest where I am. Browse through John 4:1-42 and notice the following:
 - a. Verse 7 – Jesus starts with an audience of one, a woman of disrepute.
 - b. Verses 27-28 – the disciple return, the woman leaves, the disciples question Jesus' wisdom in talking to a Samaritan woman.
 - c. Verses 35-36 – Jesus indicates to his disciples that there are harvests in places unexpected.
 - d. Verses 39-42 – the Samaritan woman brings many to Jesus and these people accept him as Messiah.
7. What do you learn concerning evangelism from the previous story? Should we be concerned with numbers in attendance, who is attending, and results when we think of sharing Christ?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

8. Pastor Morris emphasizes the role of prayer in Luke 10:2. After careful consideration of the Greek word used in that text he explained that this command from Jesus can best be translated as beg, plead, and or supplicate. These words imply deep desire. When would you beg for something? What would move you to plead for something?
 - a. _____
9. Desiring something with intensity will move you into action. Pastor Morris also emphasizes another Greek word, the one that most versions translate as “send out.” In this case he explains that this word would be best understood as to “throw out” or “impel” [as in “throw me out into the harvest”]. What is the meaning of this in the context of this prayer?
 - a. _____

Declare

10. The “Radical Prayer” has to do with two basic problems presented in Luke 10. One is the size of the harvest and the other is the lack of workers. The solution presented by Jesus is to beg to the Master. This pleading with the Master will help with both problems. Wonderful! So, what is your role in all this? What is God’s appeal to you as you read Luke 10?
 - a. _____
11. Someone said that praying moves God into action, but it also makes us aware of the role we can play in that petition we are presenting before the Lord. What are you going to do in response to Jesus’ appeal? When will you consider yourself “sent out” to serve in the harvest?
 - a. _____

I grew up in a country where the coffee harvest is very important for the economy of the nation. Each year when the harvest season came the government declared that week a school break and all students age 12 and older were expected to participate in the harvest. Each student was paid so much per bushel and we all could be proud of that year’s harvest. There is a spiritual harvest and God commands His disciples to be actively involved in it.

Close the meeting with prayer asking God as much for the harvest as for the members of this group to be laborers in the harvest.