

Report from The Battle Field; Workers In The Field

“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)

In a battle between two kingdoms we find each party well prepared. Because, a kingdom preparing for a battle would acquire more armors and equipment, recruit more soldiers and train them then properly plan for the attack.

Armies and navy marines are called and recruited for the kingdom’s safety and victory. While recruitment is announced a large number of people willingly would join not only because they love their country, but being persuaded that it is a noble task, a loyalty to do, a responsibility to comply, or because of great compensation offered. Some men are forced to join due to circumstances in their life. Others want to join but cannot due to some hindrances, and still others are hesitant and never desire to join at all. In addition, some may come for training but when the battle is pronounced they try to escape or run away from responsibility.

At the battlefield armies are spread around and are given assignments to accomplish. Part of them is in the rear side, others are posted afar, and some are in the front lines. We find part of the armies in well secured places, while the others are in dangerous areas where their lives are at stake and a possibility to face death. In such distribution, everyone endeavor to run towards the back lines where no enemies are seen and bombs are only heard. Even more, during the battle we find soldiers escaping from the clash line and running towards the well protected places, while only few continually venture around courageously fighting and trying to win the battle.

What is the relation between Matthew 9:37-38 and the above military arena? Unfortunately the same is happening in the army of Christ. We find similar categories, behaviors, examples and details of Christians today.

1. The believers are not few: A large number of people are believers of the Lord Jesus Christ. They received eternal life upon confession that Christ died for their sins and God raised Him on the third day. They have accepted and followed Jesus not only because He gives eternal life but because they were fed and were healed from diseases. It is the personal benefit of life that many attracted to Jesus. Many want to be saved from eternal fire, and that makes them choose to be a citizen in the kingdom of God. They are legal residence, they have the green card and they desire someone to serve them. They are trying to adopt themselves in God’s Kingdom, and someone gives them continuous spoon feeding! Is this the right way? Absolutely not! The Lord today reminds us that we should take an active part in the body of Christ.

2. The disciples are not few: In this category we find believers and followers who have passed the child rearing phase of faith; that was while they were in need for spiritual milk to grow in Christ. Now they are mature, they walk and run. They chew and grind, they can think and conclude. But still they want to stay sitting on the lap. They want someone still to nurse them with warm milk from the mother’s breast because they are afraid to lose the motherly care. They are growing in faith, they know the word of God well, but they don’t want to give back. Still they are reluctant to serve the King. These are the disciples who are building an army and just edifying themselves continually. They always wish to receive, but

they don’t want to give their own time, effort, and talents to serve others for the Lord. They respond to the training and to the call of God, but in the army mission they fail to report. They receive orders but fail to execute. Who among them would respond like the prophet Isaiah? *“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ and I said, ‘here am I. Send me!’” (Isaiah 6:8)*

3. The total count of the army is not few: There are only twenty two players in the football match but thousands of people are in the stadium. They watch, yell and encourage the players to win. They are the workers but their ministries are only their physical presence with smiling faces. Many of them stand at the banquet table telling blessed words but how many of them spent the time cooking the food behind, or later on doing the aftercare such as cleaning and arranging the place, washing the dishes or throwing the garbage? Only few of them! In this category we find disciples who choose to soothe themselves by a luxurious Christian life, choosing to work in the easy ministry. They behave like VIP soldiers who endeavor for high ranks to escape the battlefield. They serve the Lord in the ministries that show position and prestige. They serve the Lord in ministries not according to the need of the souls and by the plan of the Lord, but what suits them and their wishes only. They like to give orders but not to receive, and they like to speak but not to listen. This is the category of those Christians who enjoy extra and excessive fellowships and unnecessary invented ministries, but there is no actual service done for the lost soul. They are away from the harvest field. They tarry in the barns. They give many excuses to be away from the hard work.

4. The true hard workers are few: Those who contribute in the body of Christ are only a few percentages. They are the diligent and the faithful disciples who have the compassion of Jesus, looking towards the harassed and the helpless lost souls. They are always ready to open their lips, to extend their hands, to forward their feet to save a soul, and never waste time. They do not drag people to serve them but to serve God. And their mind and vision are that of the Lord. There is a certain moment of war that the soldiers have to fight man to man, from street to street, building to building, house to house and room to room. The Christians in this category have the same character of a true and hard working worker. They are ready to accept the hard ministries, and to go by faith under the rain, risking their lives for the glory of the Lord.

The Lord Jesus is in the middle of the ripe field and where the harvest is plenty. Around Him are many believers and many disciples, but the available workers are few. *“You do not want to leave too, do you? Jesus asked the twelve. Simon Peter answered him, Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.” (John 6:67-68)* Let these words change the hearts of God’s people; to convict you to do the required work of the Lord through the Great Commission. God’s words prepare the believers and make the disciples accept instructions from the Lord, and to be sent out to the harvest field.

My Dear and Beloved: I pray that the word of the Lord today will convict you, to change you and promote you to move towards the last category: To be true and hard working worker. *To labour for the Lord is not easy, but the end is always a very rewarding victory.* And towards the need, what is left can be done by no other means but by what the Lord Jesus has advised us to do: **“Pray and ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.”** *God bless you!*

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to serve you and do your will, help me Lord to do that. Lord I pray that you will send more workers to the harvest field to do your work, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

