

*"The harvest indeed is plenteous,  
but the laborers are few ..."*

Matthew 9:35-38

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### What Is My Responsibility To The Lost?

1. Those who have never heard the truth.  
**Mark 16:15ff; 1 Timothy 3:15; Acts 8:4.**  
"... in season, out of season" **2 Timothy 4:2**
2. Those who have heard and not obeyed. **"Exhort"**  
**Acts 2**
3. Those who have obeyed and then erred from the  
truth. **"Restore..." Galatians 6**
4. Do not become **"Weary ..."** **Galatians 6:9;**  
**2 Thessalonians 3:13; Hebrews 12:3;**  
**Revelation 2:3**

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### Not Anything New

#### ➤ Why such little interest?

- Cares of the world. **Luke 8:14**
- Gospel demands changes – love darkness.  
**John 3:19**
- False sense of security. **Jeremiah 6:14;**  
**8:11**
- Not popular. **Matthew 7:13-14;**  
**John 1:11-12; 6:66**

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### What Can I Do?

#### ➤ Our job – not to convert, but teach

- Command is to teach. **Mark 16:15**
- Even if they don't listen – we must do our job!  
**Ezekiel 2:8ff; 3:16-21; Isaiah 50:4-9;**  
**Jeremiah 9:1ff**
- Jesus taught – many turned away. **John 1:11-12**
- Crowds rejected the apostles. **Acts 13:45; 17:32;**  
**cf. 2 Corinthians 11:23ff**

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### What Can I Do?

#### The "unlikely" just may listen and obey

- Religious/Gentile – Cornelius. **Acts 10**
- Non-Religious – Simon. **Acts 8:9-13**
- Worldly – Corinthians. **Acts 18:8;**  
**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**
- Ignorant – Jews. **Acts 2:23; 3:17**  
– Gentiles. **Acts 17:22ff**
- Persecutor – Saul. **Acts 8:3; 9:1-2;**  
**1 Timothy 1:15**
- Politician – Jailer. **Acts 16:31-33**

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### What Can I Do?

#### ➤ View The World As Lost.

- All men are sinners. **Romans 3:9, 23**
- Sin separates from God. **Isaiah 59:1-2**
- If they die in sin – they are lost. **Romans 6:23;**  
**2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**
- The reason Jesus came to earth. **Luke 19:10**

***Anyone who has not obeyed the gospel  
is lost because he is a sinner!***

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*"The harvest indeed is plenteous,  
but the laborers are few ..."*

(Part 2)

*What Can I Do?*

Matthew 9:35-38

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### What Can I Do?

#### View The World As Lost.

- We must view the people as to their spiritual condition. **Ephesians 2:1-2**
- We must view them as without hope. **Ephesians 2:12**
- We must view them as on the road to eternal separation from God. **Revelation 21:8**

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### Preach Redemption

#### Gospel Message – Redemption/Salvation

- Power unto salvation. **Romans 1:16-17**
- How we are saved. **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**
- Peter's sermon – salvation from sin. **Acts 2**
- Paul's sermon on Mars Hill – salvation. **Acts 17:22-31**

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### Preach Redemption

#### Gospel Message – Redemption/Salvation

- Peter's sermon to Gentiles. **Acts 10:34-48**
- Paul's Sermon in Antioch on 1<sup>st</sup> Journey. **Acts 13:16-41**
- Books like Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, etc. have themes about salvation.

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### Preach Redemption

#### Gospel Demands a Change of Life

- Repentance. **Acts 2:38; 17:30-31;**  
cf. **1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Acts 19:17-20**
- Stop the practice of sin. **Romans 6**
- Give up old religion. **Philippians 3:3ff;**  
**1 Thessalonians 1:9**
- Start doing things to serve God.  
**Acts 26:17-20**

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### Preach Redemption

#### ➤ Message Has Shifted – Social

- More on relationships.
- How to be a better person.
- "Feel Good," "motivational" preaching.

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## Hindrances: The Social Gospel

NOTE: Social activities, recreation, and benevolence were never offered in NT days as the means by which to get people to become Christians. THE GOSPEL IS GOD'S DRAWING POWER BY WHICH TO CALL MEN.

**2 Thessalonians 2:14; Romans 1:16**

*Are these things worthy of the blood of Jesus Christ? cf. Ephesians 5:25; Acts 20:28*

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## Hindrances: "Keeping House"

### ➤ A Church that did not just keep house

Church at Antioch  
in Syria

**Acts 13-14** First evangelistic tour of Paul  
**Acts 15-18** Second evangelistic tour of Paul  
**Acts 18-21** Third evangelistic tour of Paul

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## Hindrances: Fear

### ➤ Fear of offending

- Gospel will offend. **Matthew 15:12; Acts 13:45-48**
- Gospel convicts the world of **sin**.  
**John 16:8; Acts 2:37**

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## Hindrances: Fear

### ➤ Fear of alienating a friend

- Gospel sometimes will alienate people.  
**Matthew 10:34ff**
- Some deem it not worth the risk.  
**cf. Luke 16:28**

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## Why Are We Not Reaping The Harvest?

**World Is Not Interested In The Gospel**

**Don't View The World As Lost**

**Message Preached Is Not Redemption**

**Content To "Keep House"**

**Fear Of Offending and Alienating Others**

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## What Can We Do?

- Become more evangelistic
- Try to reach family, friends with the gospel
- Use Bible materials
- Set up Home Bible Studies
- Bring someone to a Gospel Meeting
- Bring someone to a special class or service
- Talk to others about Bible questions

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