

## **SERMON OUTLINE**

### **'PROMOTING THE GOSPEL'**

#### **Study - 3**

#### **'Supporting the Gospel - Praying'**

#### **Matthew 9 v35 - 38**

Key Point - Before we begin speaking we need to be praying! Prayer is at the very heart of evangelism.

Key Truth - In bringing His salvation to all the world God takes up Christian men and women and uses them as His instruments in the doing of this. See - 1 Cor 3 v9. And He does this, particularly, through their prayers! See - 2nd Cor 1 v10 - 11.

*'Without God we cannot; without us He will not.'*

*St Augustine*

#### **1. PRAYER - AND GOD'S SOVEREIGN POWER**

Note - This passage in Matthew 9 is the 'hinge' (the link) between the mission of Jesus (see - v35) and the mission of the disciples (see - 10 v1 - 5a). The hinge / link is prayer. See - v37 - 38.

Note how God (the evangelist - to whom we pray) is described here - as "the Lord of the harvest". See - 1 Cor 3 v5 - 7. Key Point - It is only God who converts, who brings men and women to spiritual life. Why is this? Key Point - In their sins men and women are spiritually dead. See - Eph 2 v1 - 2a. In prayer we are crying out to God to do what we can never do ourselves - bring men and women from spiritual death to spiritual life.

#### **2. PRAYER - AND GOD'S COMPASSIONATE HEART**

Key Question - What was it that moved Jesus (and the disciples) to pray? See - v36. Note - The word "compassion" comes from the Greek word for a person's internal organs - their guts! In other

- Jesus was gutted! Key Question - In looking at the mass of humanity in our city - when did we last feel like that? Perhaps, and before we pray for anyone, we need to ask God to give us such a compassion.

Note - The word "ask" (see - v37 - 38) means 'to beg' or 'to plead' - you only beg and plead when you desperately want something.

### **3. PRAYER - AND GOD'S GREAT DESIRE**

Key Passage - 1 Tim 2 v1 - 4 & Lk 18 v1. What a motivation to pray on, and pray on, and pray on - "God wants all men to be saved."