

Sunday, February 9, 2020

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## Being God's Witnesses: Sharing Our Faith

Acts 1:8; Matthew 9:1-13, 18-38

(Black Bibles pages 909 and 813; Children's Bibles pages 1348 and 1171)

*This is the sixth sermon in our Missions & Outreach series.*

### INTRODUCTION:

As followers of Jesus we are called to be his witnesses in the world. And the world includes our neighborhood, workplaces, and communities. But we are having a hard time sharing our faith. Jesus gives us a simple instruction: Pray

### We pray for the laborers

The laborers are us

Why is Jesus' message to pray rather than get out there and just do it?

Five reasons we shrink from sharing our faith

1. We fear rejection
2. We fear feeling intellectually inadequate
3. We feel weak in our witness
4. We feel tired in our witness
5. We live in a Christian bubble

### We pray to the Lord of the harvest

Jesus is the Lord of creation. His salvation is more than personal; it's cosmic.

Jesus' coming is the fulfillment of God's rescue mission from the beginning

Our deepest need is not relief from suffering; its forgiveness and restoration with God

### We pray for the harvest

Jesus is the Shepherd who sees his hurting sheep

"We do not love our neighbors so they can hear the gospel. Our neighbors will hear the gospel because we love them." -- Darryl Rearson

Reflections on the man who was paralyzed

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. Look at the five reasons we shrink back from sharing our faith. Which ones do you struggle with? What is the reason they have power over you?
2. How can you repent and change? What do you need to know about each reason to confront the fears and issues and help turn your heart in the right direction?
3. Are you willing to pray with others about this? Would you make a commitment to do so?