

# I Want to Be a Worker for the Lord

## Introduction

Songs        To the Work, To the Work  
                  I Want to Be a Worker for the Lord

Scripture Reading: **Matthew 20:1-16**

## Introduction

1. We often times sing these songs with great vigor and enthusiasm but are we really thinking about what we are saying to God.
  - Reminds me of the parable I once heard about the **POPPER**.
2. Do we really strive to be God's workers in His Kingdom? Do we really know what our work is?
3. This morning I want us to "examine" ourselves and see if we are striving to do our part in the Lord's Vineyard. The apostle Paul wrote:  
**2 Corinthians 13:5-8**
  - A. To know that we are in "the faith" requires study.  
**Romans 10:17**  
**2 Timothy 2:15**
  - B. We are to "test ourselves" making sure we are doing all we should be and can be for the Lord.
  - C. A true Christian does not appear approved but is held in honor because they DO the works that bring forth fruit  
**James 2:24**  
**John 15:5**

## Laborers in the Vineyard

1. Our Lord and Savior used many commonplace things to teach us spiritual lessons. We can learn a valuable one concerning our work from Matthew 20:1-16.  
**Matthew 20:1-16**
  
2. Lessons we can learn from this text:
  - A. The householder went out to **HIRE** Laborers.
    - 1) Offered incentive.
    - 2) Did not scare or force one into labor.
    - 3) Wanted **VOLUNTEERS**.
  
  - B. The householder went out to hire **LABORERS**.
    - 1) Did not want loafers or shirkers.
    - 2) Wanted **WORKERS** (1 Corinthians 15:58).
  
  - C. The householder went out to hire laborers into **HIS VINEYARD**.
    - 1) It does make a difference what vineyard we are in!
    - 2) Many are good workers - but not in God's vineyard.
    - 3) God employed us to work **HIS VINEYARD**.
  
3. Our Lord wants **VOLUNTEERS** to **WORK** in **HIS VINEYARD**!
  - A. Now the question is, what is the work that we should be doing? But before we discuss these things, let's eliminate one more road block.

## The Preacher

1. **Sometimes a congregation may hire a preacher, not just to preach, but to “do the work” of the church.**
  - A. **Often times a congregation will try to hire a preacher that will be able to please everyone, even to the point of taking on ALL the work, but this is absolutely impossible.**

### **READ POEM “A Preacher to Suit All”**

2. **Let's look at some things the preacher should do.**
  - A. **Pray** (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
  - B. **Study** (2 Timothy 2:15).
  - C. **Live What He Teaches** (1 Timothy 4:12).

Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

- D. **Constantly on the lookout for the Salvation of others.**

James 5:19-20 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

- E. **Know the truth.**

John 8:32 “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

- F. **Look after the poor and sick**

- 1) **Jesus talks about what will happen to those that do not do this in Matthew 25:31-46.**

- G. Grow in the faith (Hebrews 11:6).**
  - H. Keep his individual responsibility.**
    - 1) Many duties to do in and around the building. He should gladly do them.**
    - 2) Teaching Bible class, inviting others to services, assisting in any work program of the congregation.**
      - Lays up treasures in heaven by doing so (Matthew 6:20).**
  - I. Gain zeal for God as he grows in the Christian graces (2 Peter 1:5-8).**
  - J. Does unto others as he would have others do unto him. (Matthew 7:12).**
- 3. These are often things that are not only expected of the preacher, but placed on him as the only one that should do these things!**
- A. But all of these things are each and every Christian's responsibility. It is our WORK, our INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY to do these things ---- Not just the preacher.**
  - B. If the preacher is the only one doing these things then we have failed miserably in our work in the Kingdom of God. God wants workers - not onlookers!**

## The Responsible Work of Each Member

1. **When we fully understand the great gift of God in sending His only Son to die on the cross for SINS and further understand:**
  - A. **That Christ founded His church - in which we are individual members** (Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 12:27).
  - B. **That Christ is the head of His church** (Ephesians 5:23).
  - C. **That when we put on Christ in baptism, we are wearing His name** (Galatians 3:27; Acts 11:26).
2. **Then we should be ready and willing to do the work that is before us as a member in His Kingdom which includes, but is not limited to:**
  - A. **Being a present church member.**

Hebrews 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

- B. **Being a cooperating church member.**

Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

- C. **Being a sympathetic church member.**

Romans 12:15-16 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

**D. Being a sincere church member.**

Romans 12:11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

**E. Being a contributing church member (IN ALL WAYS).**

Romans 12:8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

**F. Being a growing church member.**

2 Peter 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

1 Peter 2:2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

**G. A studying church member.**

Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

**H. A constant church member.**

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

**I. A sacrificial church member.**

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

## Conclusion

1. The church of our Lord is becoming stagnant today because many within the local church are not “workers for the Lord.”
  - A. When we sing “I want to be a worker for the Lord” and miserably fail in our individual responsibilities then we are no better than those that Jesus addressed in Matthew 15:8.

Matthew 15:8 These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.

**Remember:**

**Our talk talks & our walk talks, but our walk talks more than our talk talks!**

2. May we never lose sight of the love of Christ – that should motivate each one of us to do all we can daily in His beloved kingdom.





## THE PARABLE OF THE POPPER

Behold at the time of harvest the ears of corn did bring forth kernels which were dried and prepared for the popper's hand.

And the popper did take the kernels, all of which appeared alike unto him, and did apply the oil and the heat.

And it came to pass when the heat was on, some did explode with promise and did magnify themselves, yea, even a hundred fold.

And some did burst forth with whiteness, which did both gladden the eye of the beholder and satisfy the taste of the popper.

And likewise, some others did pop, but not too much. But lo, there were some that did just lie there and even though the popper's heat was alike unto all, they did bask in the warmth of the oil and kept everything they had for themselves.

And so it came to pass that those which had given of themselves, did bring joy and delight to many munchers, but those which kept of the warmth and did not burst forth were fit only to be cast out, and were thought of with hardness and disgust.

And thus we see that in the beginning all appear alike, but when the heat is on, some come forth and give their all while others fail and are discarded.

(Author Unknown)