**Workers in the Kingdom**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. Read Ephesians 4:16.
   1. For a local church to thrive, this is what’s needed—for every part to do its share, for every member here to be involved in some way.
   2. The Lord has called us to work, and that includes every one of us.
2. Let’s look at the kind of workers He needs.

**BODY:**

1. People who will show hospitality
   1. Read 1 Peter 4:9.
      1. Written to people suffering, and whose suffering would get worse.
   2. Could more of this have saved some from going astray?
   3. We don’t have to be well off to do this.
2. People who will seek the sheep who have gone astray
   1. Luke 15:4.
   2. “Lord, thou hast here thy 90 and 9, are they not enough for thee? But the shepherd made answer: ‘This of mine has wandered away from Me; and although the road be rough and steep, I go the desert to find my sheep.’”
3. Encouragers
   1. Whose name was changed by the apostles, a name which meant “son of encouragement?”
   2. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11.
   3. Reason it’s so important: “Let us not grow weary while doing good” (Gal. 6:9).
   4. Young people: “receiving a well done from a fellow Christian, whether in person, by letter, email, facebook message, etc.”
   5. How about folks just going through a hard time? 1 Thess. 5:14.
4. Teachers
   1. Antioch, a good example: Acts 15:35 (some of these teachers named in Acts 13:1).
   2. Great when we can have plenty of teachers for all the different age groups.
   3. Don’t sell yourself short too quickly…
      1. People do well when talking about a hunting or fishing trip, or a ballgame.
      2. Not the best? Neither am I, but that’s not going to stop me from doing the best I can.
      3. The more we do it, the better we get (example: Andrew).
   4. Teaching the lost
      1. Surely we can remember what we did to be saved—can we pass that along to others?
      2. “Pray the Lord of harvest to send out laborers into His harvest” (Matt. 9:38).
      3. “Go into all the world” (think about how Elijah reacted when he was told to go).
5. Inviters
   1. Cornelius sure was excited for Peter to come to him and preach the gospel—had already been told that he would hear words by which he and his household would be saved (Acts 11:14).
   2. So, what did he do? Acts 10:24.
   3. Various ways to do this: in person, distribute cards, email, social media contacts, etc.
6. Warners, rebukers
   1. A difficult work for sure, but 1 Thess. 5:14.
   2. Need the right kind of people—Gal. 6:1.
   3. What makes this work easier is if we’ve been involved with these people in other ways—doing the kind of works we’ve already mentioned.
7. People willing to do the “behind the scenes” stuff
   1. Cut the grass, make repairs to the building, prepare the Lord’s supper, keep financial records, pay the bills, order class materials, etc.
   2. Surely we don’t see these things as beneath us.
   3. Always encouraging when we have plenty of volunteers for these duties.
   4. Involvement in these things often leads to involvement in others.

**CONCLUSION**: Parable of the Talents, esp. Matthew 25:26 (“wicked and lazy servant”); Isaiah 6 (“Here am I, send me”)