



## The iHad Went Challenge

### Day Four

#### Passage:

Matthew 9:35-38

#### Principles:

##### **Missions begins with fervent prayer.**

In *Let the Nations be Glad*, John Piper says, "Prayer is primarily a wartime walkie-talkie for the mission of the church as it advances against the powers of darkness and unbelief. It is not surprising that prayer malfunctions when we try to make it a domestic intercom to call upstairs for more comforts in the den." Now that you have returned from the mission field overseas your role in the ancient work is changing. God desires for you to continue to engage the ancient work in that country by crying out to God on their behalf.

Missions really began with prayer. In Matthew 9, Jesus is getting ready to send out his disciples (chapter 10), but first he calls them to pray. He urges them to ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his fields. Why? Because the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. You just witnessed a harvest field in our day that fits this same description. Jesus says to start on your knees. Engage the battle that is going on by begging God to send out workers into these fields.

##### **Great movements of God are birthed through prayer.**

The year was 1806. Five college students were caught in a rainstorm. They found shelter under a haystack. They met in order to pray, and the rain would not drown out their purpose. Samuel Mills suggested that they pray about foreign mission involvement and so they did. Don't miss this. In 1806, no American had ever left to become a foreign missionary. The idea itself was completely foreign. However, they prayed for God's missionary work among the nations and God answered. What is known as the Student Volunteer Movement took place from 1880-1920. In that time span, over 20,000 students left American soil to serve God among the nations. This great movement of God traces its roots directly back to this one prayer meeting under a haystack in 1806.

200 years later, we believe that God is ready to birth a movement in our generation; one that will finish the task. And we believe that He is calling a generation to pray for missions. God is calling a generation back to the haystack. Your continued involvement in the ancient global work may take place in a haystack gathering with some of your friends, as you meet regularly to cry out to God on behalf of the nations.

##### **You may be the answer to your own prayer.**

A few verses into chapter 10, Jesus sends his disciples out on a mission journey. He challenges them to pray for more workers and then he allows them to answer their own prayer. Be ready. You may be one of the workers that you are asking God to send.

#### Prayer:

Lord of the harvest, I cry out to you on behalf of the nations. Your words are just as true today as they were 2000 years ago. The harvest is plentiful and I have seen it with my own eyes. So many people need to hear the message. So many are lost. And yet, the workers are still few. Workers are needed to plow up the ground, to sow seeds of the Gospel, to reap the harvest, and to disciple the believers. For your fame and your glory, please send out more workers. Here am I. Send me. Send a generation. Raise up your workers and send us out.

#### Plan:

- Start a haystack gathering. All the info you need is at [www.haystackgathering.blogspot.com](http://www.haystackgathering.blogspot.com).
- Write out your prayers in a prayer journal. Examine how often you are praying bottom line prayers vs. how often you are merely calling for more comforts in the den.
- Form your haystack gathering with others that had went as well as others that you want to enlist in the work. As you pray for the nations, watch how God prepares you to be more and more involved.