

# The Radical Prayer



*In an age of confusion and deception  
people desperately need to hear the truth about Jesus.  
The Radical Prayer challenges us to move beyond  
the status quo and to join the Lord of the harvest in His work.  
I recommend this book to every Christian  
who is serious about making a difference in the world.*

—Josh McDowell, Christian Apologist and Author

*Derek J. Morris*

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Published by Autumn House® Publishing, a division of Review and Herald® Publishing, Hagerstown, MD 21741-1119

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This book was  
Edited by Gerald Wheeler  
Copyedited by James Cavil  
Designed by Trent Truman  
Cover photos by istock  
Typeset: Clearface 10/20

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

12 11 10 09 08

6 5 4 3 2

**Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data**

Morris, Derek John, 1954- .

The radical prayer : will you respond to the appeal of Jesus? / Derek J. Morris.  
p. cm.

1. Witness bearing (Christianity)—Biblical teaching. 2. Prayer—Biblical teaching. I. Title.

BS2545.W54M67 2008

248.3'2--dc22

2008010893

ISBN 978-0-8127-0486-0 Hardcover

ISBN 978-0-8127-0487-7 Paperback

*This book is*

*Dedicated*

*to all who have responded  
to the appeal of Jesus.*

*Like great men and women of God  
through the ages,  
you have courageously prayed the radical prayer.*

## In Praise of Radical Prayer

*Derek Morris's Radical Prayer is powerful material, a must-read for all those who want a closer walk with God. I am convinced that when we give the Lord of the harvest primacy in our lives, He will give us the Spirit's power to change the world. As you read these pages, open your heart to a renewed experience with the Lord of the harvest.*

—Mark Finley, Evangelist

*Why are we here? Not just to function in our own little world but to advance God's kingdom. That's what The Radical Prayer is all about. This book is not just for pastors and evangelists but for everyone who has accepted Christ as Savior and Lord and anticipates His soon return.*

—Jack Blanco, Th.D., Retired Dean of Theology  
Ooltewah, Tennessee

# Acknowledgments



I want to express my appreciation to the numerous individuals who have provided encouragement and assistance in completing this book:

To Jack Blanco, James Cress, Robert Folkenberg, and Gordon Retzer—people used by the Lord of the harvest to encourage me to put these thoughts into print.

To Janis Lowry, Don Mansell, Eve Parker, and Nancy Vasquez—who provided invaluable feedback in the shaping and editing of the manuscript.

To my beloved wife, Bodil—who patiently supported me during the writing process and prayed for me.

Each of these individuals, along with others unnamed, encouraged me to be attentive to the steady conviction of God's Spirit.

Most of all, I want to give thanks and honor to the Lord of the harvest, who has saved me by His grace, empowers me by His Spirit, and continues to use me in His harvest. “To God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen” (Jude 25).

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# Introduction



All too often we simply pray weak prayers, such as “Dear God, help me to have a nice day” and “Help me not to get so angry today.” However, Jesus challenges each one of His followers to pray a radical prayer. It’s a short prayer, but it’s certainly not weak. In fact, it’s a powerful prayer.

If you want to maintain the status quo, don’t even begin this prayer. Or if you want to live an average life, leave it alone. But if you have a passion to make a difference in the world—if you have a longing to see Jesus return in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords—then I invite you to learn more about this radical prayer.

Once you begin to pray this radical prayer in faith, the way will open for great and wonderful things to happen. Your life will truly be transformed, and you will never be the same again. Are you ready? Then read on.





# 1

## *Seeing the World From a Radical Perspective*

---

I love mountains! I can still remember the very first time I rode in a cable car up the side of a rugged snow-covered slope. The view was exhilarating. However, when I finally reached the top of the mountain and stepped out of the cable car, my whole perspective changed. Now, instead of merely gazing at one snow-covered mountainside, I had an amazing panoramic view of a whole range of majestic snow-covered mountains. That moment will remain in my memory forever. I was seeing the world from a new viewpoint!

## The Radical Perspective

God wants *you* to view the world from a new perspective. Not just from a different altitude. He longs for you to see the world as He does—from a divine perspective. A radical perspective! Once you have caught a glimpse of God’s radical perspective, then you will be ready to learn about the radical prayer.

So what is this radical perspective? It is found in Luke 10:2. Jesus shares with His disciples, and also with us, that “the harvest truly is great.” What does Jesus mean when He says that the harvest truly is plentiful, abundant, and extensive? Scripture employs the metaphor of the harvest in two ways. First, Jesus uses the imagery of the harvest when referring to the end of the world. In Matthew 13:39 He tells us: “The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.” Revelation 14:15 employs it in a similar manner: “Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.” These two passages make it clear that the harvest can refer to the gathering of the saints at the end of the age and to the judgment of the wicked.

But Jesus also uses the metaphor of the harvest to refer to present missionary endeavors, that is, leading men and women to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and gathering them into the kingdom of God. This is the meaning of the harvest in Luke 10:2. Consider the context. In Luke 10:1 Luke tells us: “After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.” A present activity, it is not the final harvest at the end of the world. In His present harvest work God employs people, not angels. Jesus is sending His disciples out, two by two, into God’s harvest.

So what does He want us to understand when He says that the harvest truly is great? Simply this: many people—men and women, boys and girls—are ready and waiting to be gathered into His kingdom. They only need to hear the good news and receive the invitation. According to Jesus,



there is a present harvest to bring in, and it “truly is great.”

Why does Jesus emphasize the magnitude of the harvest?

Because it is great! On the day of Pentecost, when the apostles

witnessed the conversion of

***“Lift up your eyes***

3,000 individuals, I’m sure that

***and look at the fields,***

they said to each other, *“The harvest truly is great!”* When we

***for they are already***

see thousands receiving Christ

***white for harvest!”***

as Savior and Lord, we also find it easy to repeat the same thing

to one another. The words of

Jesus are obviously true.

But at times it might not appear as if the harvest will amount to anything at all. From a human perspective, it can seem as if crop failure has struck. At those times, Jesus still urges us to remember the immensity of the harvest. He urges us to view reality from a radical perspective. When we see as He does, we will discover that the harvest truly *is* great.

## A Great Harvest at Sychar

Have you ever read the story of Jesus meeting with the Samaritan woman at the well of Sychar (John 4:3-42)? At first glance, there doesn't seem to be much of a harvest of souls there. Jesus encounters only one person—just one wayward woman. When the disciples arrive on the scene, they immediately evaluate the situation and conclude, *There's not much of a harvest here*. Jesus discerns their thoughts and reads their faces. Then He startles them by declaring, “Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest” (John 4:35).

In spite of the bleak landscape, Jesus sees that the harvest truly is *great*. That once-wayward woman returns to Sychar and gives her testimony about her life-changing encounter with the Messiah. Many Samaritans believe in Jesus because of her witness. The harvest is so plentiful that Jesus stays for two extra days, and many more become believers because of His words.

Some of us would probably have driven straight through

town without stopping. Or better yet, we might have chosen to avoid the town completely. No harvest here. At least not one that we can see from a human perspective. But Jesus challenges us to look again—to open our eyes. Or perhaps to give the Lord of the harvest permission to open our eyes and enable us to see from His radical perspective. Then we will more fully comprehend His words: *“The harvest truly is great.”*

## **A Great Harvest at Sybertsville**

I conducted my first public meetings in the small, economically depressed town of Sybertsville, Pennsylvania. I was young and inexperienced, but the faithful followers of Jesus in that community were most encouraging. We rented a fire hall and sent out some invitations.

Realizing that I needed some powerful messages, I called a well-known Christian evangelist and asked if I could borrow his sermons. When he agreed, I knew right then that God was at work. I spent about 400 hours transcribing those messages and making them my own.