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Helpin' Zeke

"But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father? They said to him, 'The first.'" Matthew 21:28-31

I ran across this story in a church bulletin regarding the need for productive workers in the church:

A farmer left his two sons, Ezekiel and Daniel, at home with instructions about the work to be done. When he returned, he found the work still not finished. Calling the two boys to account, he asked, "Ezekiel, what have you been doing today?"

"Nothin'," Ezekiel replied.

Then he asked Daniel, "And what have you been doing?"

"Helpin Zeke."

Too many Christians today are "helpin'" Zeke when they should be totally involved and busy in the Lord's work. Our church has a place of service for every member. Get busy in some productive task that will bring honor and glory to the cause of Christ.

There seems to be an abundance of Ezekiel's and Daniel's in the church and in the world in general. This is not anything new. Jesus encountered the same conditions and encouraged his disciples to pray that the Lord of the harvest would send workers, "Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest'" (Matthew 9:37-38).

I don't know of many churches that are complaining about too many people being active and involved in the work. I do know of several churches that are praying that some families who are inactive and out of duty would see the need to attend the services of the church and really be involved in the work. I also know that there are not very many young men today who desire a preaching career. Thankfully there are some who are interested in developing preaching skills while they pursue other career opportunities. Hopefully they will develop into solid and qualified leaders for congregations they attend. In addition, I know that they are helpful to congregations to which they travel to preach from time to time.

I'll close with this: "But where was I to start? The world is so vast. I shall start with the country I know best, my own. But my country is so very large. I had better start with my town. But my town too is large. I had better start with my street. No, my home. No, my family. Never mind. I shall start with myself." Elie Wiesel, *"Souls on Fire"*

"And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' They immediately left their nets and followed him." Matthew 4:18-20