

Leader Corner

Empower the Worker

Matthew 9:35-38

The good news is that since Jesus' resurrection, there has been an ongoing harvest. Millions of souls have come to Christ, are coming to Christ, and will come to Christ. Here, Jesus tells us to pray for God to send laborers to bring in the harvest.

Main Idea: We deliberately empower others to reach and care for the lost, hurting and broken.

Main Practice: As a church family, we become involved in the harvest as God sends compassionate people to engage the lost for Christ.

Main Teaching: Matthew 9:35-38

Connect with Prayer & Praise

Read, meditate upon and discuss this prayer from the Puritan prayer book, *The Valley of Vision*.

"Sovereign God, Thy cause, not my own, engages my heart and I appeal to Thee with greatest freedom to set up Thy Kingdom in every place where Satan reigns. Glorify Thyself, and I shall rejoice for to bring honor to Thy name is my sole desire. I adore Thee, that Thou art God, and long that others should know it, feel it, and rejoice in it."

with Principle

1. Read aloud Matthew 9:35-38.
2. Share any questions that this sermon brought about, and mention what challenged you from this sermon.
3. Compassion is defined as “sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others.” What does it mean to you that God is compassionate and how do we know that God values compassion? Helpful scripture: Isaiah 30:18, Psalms 51:1, Matthew 14:14, 20:32-34, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:12, 1 Peter 3:8.
4. We read here that Christ had compassion for the crowds because “they were harassed and helpless.” While this is often the state of the world in general, think about the world’s spiritual state; without God’s free mercy, through faith in Christ, we would be harassed in trying to meet the demands of every other religion that demands “works” for salvation. Or we’d be hopelessly believing in no god or in karma. Thanks be to our Lord and Savior! See and discuss Matthew 7:13-14, John 8:12, 14:6, Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:18-19.
5. What are some motives other than compassion that motivate people into religious works? Share these scriptures: Matthew 7:15-23, Romans 16:17-18, Acts 20:29-30, 1 John 4:1.
6. After question #5 above, do we understand why Jesus’ prayer for the Lord to send out laborers is so important? God knows our hearts and our gifts. Therefore; pray for God’s sending. See and discuss Ephesians 6:18, Philippians 4:6-7, 1 John 5:14-15, 1 Peter 5:7.

with Practice

Think about all the differing roles and needs involved in the harvest of crops in first century Israel. There were those who cut, those who gathered and tied bundles, those who hauled the grain to the mill, those who fed the laborer, those who tended the animals, those paying the workers, etc. What do *you* see as your role in the harvest today? More importantly, do you feel God sending you? Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send workers, and to direct your role in the harvest.

Share with your group 1-2 people God is calling you to invest and equip and ask them to specifically pray for you to have meaningful conversations this week with those people.

for Further Study

Have you ever been involved in church work and done something out of guilt? Theologian Dan Doriani states, “If guilt or fear sends someone to a task, the laborer will look to quit as soon as adversity arrives. If God does not send, we lack the heart to persevere.” How can we avoid this situation? Study James 1:5, 3:13-18.