

The Harvest is Plentiful - Matthew 9:35-38 **Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

Notes from the Sermon

This passage of scripture comes from the book of Matthew. This book titled Matthew was written by the disciple of Jesus, named Matthew. I don't know about you, but my initial assumption is that for people who wrote sections of the Bible, they were probably pretty good people. However, before Jesus, Matthew was not that guy. Matthew was a tax collector who literally cheated people to make a living. He collected what the government required and then some. He would make up a number of what people owed, and keep the extra. He was despised by the people and considered no good. To the Jews, tax collectors were like the embodiment of sin.

But Matthew's story does not end there, Jesus took this man who was despised, rejected, spiritually dead, and made him alive. He wrote a book of the bible! Matthew is a gospel but Christ's work in his life is a beautiful picture of the gospel.

Jesus had started his earthly ministry and was gathering his disciples. The passage today comes right after Jesus calls Matthew to follow him. Jesus began preaching to the people saying "repent , for the kingdom of heaven is at hand". Jesus is going through the towns and meeting people where they are. He is healing people of their diseases and afflictions, but also bringing the good news. He preaches the gospel of the kingdom to them, the forgiveness of sins. New life, rescue from the darkness, and being restored to a right relationship with God. Believing this news brings even more than physical healing, it heals people forever.

The people that Jesus ministered to and brought this news to were people that he created. He saw these people, whom he called harassed and helpless, with compassion. The people were downtrodden and carrying the weight of sin and the brokenness of the world. Jesus knew they were in need of something greater. Jesus brought this news all over Galilee, and not just to the easy places. Seeing these people and knowing their need, he looked to the disciples and said "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Jesus says that the harvest is plentiful! This is amazing news! He means that there are many ready to hear the good news of the kingdom. No farmer looks out their fields and is upset that the harvest is plentiful. However, to reap this harvest there needs to be laborers. Jesus notes here that the laborers are few. His answer to this problem is simple: pray. Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest. Jesus is the Lord of the harvest. The harvest is his. All who have been saved were saved by Christ. He uses redeemed people to bring this saving message to the people who need it. Jesus calls them to prayerfully rely on him. He calls them to pray for this message to spread, and for him to save. We pray these things not because we do not trust his word, but because we know that he will fulfil his promises. Jesus is the Lord of the Harvest, and he will harvest his people.

Almost immediately after the disciples pray this prayer, they are sent out to bring this good news to the surrounding cities. The missionary work had begun. The prayer Jesus calls them to pray is just as urgent today as it was when His first disciples heard those

words. Right now there is lostness all around us and across the globe. Jesus is the answer to this problem, just like he was then. We need to have compassion for the lost and pray for the Lord to send and save! Remember the cross, trust in Jesus, and let it move you in prayer.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Kings 2	1 Kings 3	1 Kings 4	1 Kings 5	1 Kings 6	1 Kings 7	1 Kings 8

Reading from this past week’s sermon: Matthew 9:35-38

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Acts 4

Family Worship

Song - *Christ to Every Nation*

<https://youtu.be/4utMop9JBZw?si=C0en0msWLrsB08gT>

Gospel Project

Unit: Jesus’ Ministry Continues
 Story: John the Baptist pointed to Jesus
 Big Picture Question: Did Jesus ever sin?
 Answer: No, Jesus never sinned.
 Scripture: John 3

New City Catechism

Question 20: Who is the redeemer?
 Answer: The only Redeemer is the Lord Jesus Christ.
 Verse: 1 Timothy 2:5

Matthew 9:35-38

- Why did Jesus see the people as harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd? How did He respond to this?
- How can the harvest being plentiful encourage us to pray and go?
- Why do you think that Jesus notes that the laborers are few? What are some barriers that might make it hard for people to be a laborer?
- How can we pray for the Lord to send out laborers? Are we willing to pray for ourselves to be sent?

Prayer

*Pray to the LORD of the Harvest to send harvesters into your neighborhood and our city.

*Pray that we would be a church that makes intercession without ceasing.

*NOTE - Make sure you download and read the C. H. Spurgeon sermon on corporate prayer during our May Prayer Month.