

SERMON NOTES



Gathering The Harvest: The Church's Mission

Responding to the Need for Harvesters

Matthew 9:35-38

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February 23 & 24, 2008

INTRODUCTION:

Jesus shared His vision of human need with His disciples, and He expected them to be involved in meeting the need. He said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." Who are these workers, why is there a shortage, and what can be done about it?

I. Who Were These Workers? Matthew 10:1-5

A. They were ordinary people.

1. Simon Peter—impetuous and impossible.
2. Andrew—enquiring and engaged.
3. James and John—intense and intolerant.
4. Thomas—phlegmatic and pragmatic.
5. Matthew—disliked and distrusted.
6. Simon the Zealot—passionate and powerful.

B. They were ordinary people who had been called.

1. They had responded to a personal invitation from Christ.
2. They were now enrolled in His cause.

C. They were ordinary called people with authority.

1. The authority invested in the Lord Jesus—over all evil.
2. The authority now delegated to them for service.

D. They were ordinary, called, authorized people who were commissioned.

1. They were sent out with a specific task.
2. They were commissioned with specific instructions.

II. Why Was There a Shortage of Workers?

A. Perhaps some did not believe ordinary people qualified.

1. Some suspected they were too insignificant.
2. Some felt the task was beneath them.

B. Perhaps some resisted the call to discipleship.

1. They wanted to be saved with no desire to serve.
2. They claimed to be born again, but showed no interest in living anew.

C. Perhaps they felt too inadequate to be part of the answer.

1. They doubted the authority of Christ would make a difference.
2. They believe He had authority, but did not believe it was delegated.

D. Perhaps they thought God only commissioned priests, pastors, and missionaries.

1. They were unaware that the Lord works through all His people.
2. They were so involved with the mundane they missed being sent.

III. What Should the Modern Church Be Doing About the Situation?

A. Equipping the saints for the work of the ministry.

B. Praying that God will send more workers into the harvest.

C. Sending and supporting those who “leave all and follow Him.”

Point to Ponder: Am I a worker or a watcher?