

Matthew 10:1-4

This passage, although a new chapter, is a continuation of thought from Chapter 9.

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:37-38

Jesus has been healing the people from sickness, casting out demons, and raising the dead. But with eyes of compassion, he still sees so many needy people. In order to reach them all, he must multiply his efforts. He begins with prayer and then calls his harvest workers - his apostles to continue his work.

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. ² The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

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Jesus sees a harvest, then he prays, he calls, he equips, and he sends workers. This list of 12 men does not include the smartest, or the most influential, but does include the willing. It is Jesus who called them, Jesus who gave them authority, and Jesus who sent them out with his message of the kingdom. And they went.

Discussion Questions

- Jesus had eyes of compassion to see a harvest. Where do you see a harvest? How do you see the job, neighborhood, sport team, etc. in which you belong as the harvest?
- In what way can we be praying with you for these people?
- Jesus gave the apostles the specific gifts to do his work. As a believer, how have you been equipped? What specific gifts have you been given?
- In Mark 6:7, we learn that they were sent out in pairs, not alone. How can we as a group, go share hope together? For example: serve the community, a neighbor in need, gifts for homeless shelter
- What steps will you take this week to open your eyes to the harvest, pray, and share the message of salvation?

D&A (Discipleship & Accountability)

Break up into smaller groups for prayer.

- How is your time with God?
- What are you praying for?
- What are you struggling with?
- Who are you praying for to know Jesus?
- What gospel conversations have you had this week with someone who doesn't follow Jesus?