

KINGDOM COME

– 11 –

The Harvest & The Laborers

**All Bible verses are from the ESV unless indicated otherwise*

- This is an easily dismissible transitional passage.
- Matthew is going to pivot.
- Jesus have been doing a lot of healing.
- Jesus has demonstrated his power and authority.

Matthew 9:35 And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.

- A repeat of Matthew 4:23
- Matthew is capping off Jesus' healing and miracles in Galilee.
- This hasn't just been about healing.
- The signs and wonders and miracles have all been about the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

- The job of a shepherd is to lead, love and care for sheep.
- They also have to protect them from wild animals.
- Sheep do not have good defense.
- Israel has shepherds who care for themselves not the sheep – Pharisees, Sadducees.
- Compassion involves so identifying with the situation of others that one is prepared to act for their benefit.
- Harassed” = flayed, attacked, torn apart.
- “Helpless” = thrown down, abandoned.

Matthew 9:37-38 37 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.”

- Harvest – both judgment and salvation (Isa. 27:12-13, Joel 3:13, Ezekiel 34).
- God – owner and managers of the farmland.
- He is employing laborers to harvest the crop.

- Laborers – the 12 disciples (sends them out in Matthew 10). But prophetically all those who come after.
- The harvest was plentiful before the disciples ever preached.
- “Send out” – ekbālō literally means to cast or throw out with force.
- “Pray for laborers to be sent” – there was just a small group.
- Pray for a group of people, an army.
- Nearly 3 billion Christians today.
- Approx. half of believers believe they have a responsibility to share their faith. Less than that actually do.
- “Pray earnestly” – Don’t just go; pray that God will cast more people into mission.
- Pray with a passion for the lost.
- In the next verse (10:1), the very ones told to pray become the ones sent.