



**“Preparing to
Live on Mission”
Matthew 9:35-38**

Introduction

A. The Gospel of Matthew begins with the genealogy and birth of Jesus Christ. It concludes with the Great Commission.

Introduction

**B. “And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to keep all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age’”
(Matthew 28:18-20).**

Introduction

C. This morning we want to see how we are to prepare to live on mission.

³⁵And Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. ³⁶And seeing the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then He *said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. ³⁸Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

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E. After preaching the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus came down and in chapter 8 He encountered a leper, a paralyzed servant, Peter's sick mother-law, a violent storm, and two demon-possessed men.

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F. In chapter 9 Jesus encountered a paralyzed man, a dead child, a chronically ill woman, two blind men, and a mute, demon-possessed man.

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G. Everywhere Jesus turned, He encountered people impacted by sin. He met broken, hurting, sinful people. Jesus came to rescue and redeem people from the power of sin.

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H. This world has war, terrorism, racism, bigotry, cancer, death, corruption, loneliness, broken marriages, rebellious children, abandoned children, drug-ravaged families and neighborhoods, and all manner of pride, deception, spiritual apathy, idolatry, and unbelief.

Introduction

I. What's a church to do? How can we make a difference? Thankfully, God didn't leave us to figure it out on our own. God clearly instructs us in His Word.

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J. Big Idea: People who receive the gospel truth are commanded to live on gospel mission.

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B. Verse 35 summarizes Jesus' itinerant ministry He began in 4:23.

I. Receive Jesus' Ministry (9:35)

C. Jesus was a teacher. He would go from town to town and teach in the synagogue. According to D. A. Carson, there were 204 cities and villages in Galilee, meaning if Jesus were to speak in two towns or villages a day, it would take about four months to cover them all. Jesus explained the Word of God.

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E. The "kingdom of God" is an important theme in the Gospel of Matthew. The kingdom is the rule and reign of God over His creation such that everything exists and works according to His pleasure, plan, and design.

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F. The proclaiming of God's kingdom is the message that the Messiah has come to redeem God's people and restore God's creation to its God-ordained design.

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G. The proper response to the preaching of the gospel of the kingdom is repentance (3:2; 4:17). Repentance is a change of thinking that leads to a change of living. We must turn from our rejection of God's will and surrender to Him. We are to lay down our arms as rebels and submit to the King of the kingdom.

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I. Before beginning to live on mission as a disciple of Jesus Christ, you must first receive His ministry of grace.

II. Reflect Jesus' Heart (9:36)

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A. Jesus had compassion for the people. He was heartbroken by the brokenness He saw.

B. Jesus was moved, stirred by compassion. Compassion is love in action.

C. The people were “distressed and downcast.” They were harassed and defeated by sin, and there was nothing they could do about it.

II. Reflect Jesus' Heart (9:36)

D. The people were “like sheep without a shepherd.” They were vulnerable. They needed a shepherd to feed, guide, and protect them. Israel's religious leaders had failed them time and time again. (Ezekiel 34:1-6)

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D. The people were “like sheep without a shepherd.” They were vulnerable. They needed a shepherd to feed, guide, and protect them. Israel’s religious leaders had failed them time and time again. (Ezekiel 34:1-6)

E. Yahweh, the Messiah, is the leader who will not fail them and will not leave them. (Ezekiel 34:11-16)

II. Reflect Jesus' Heart (9:36)

F. But these sheep are not innocent. They are rebellious and disobedient. And yet Jesus came to them with a heart of compassion.

II. Reflect Jesus' Heart (9:36)

G. So how can we reflect Jesus' heart? (1) See. Slow down and look around you. Notice the people God is putting in your path. (2) Feel. Pray that God will make you more like Jesus and truly care for others. (3) Act. We who have received the grace of the Good Shepherd now have the privilege and responsibility of proclaiming the good news to the lost.

III. Respond to Jesus' Call (9:37-38)

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B. If you're a Christian, you should respond to Jesus' call.

III. Respond to Jesus' Call (9:37-38)

C. "The harvest is plentiful." It is the Lord's harvest (9:38). He is sovereign over every single aspect of their salvation. Because it is His harvest, He can guarantee that it is plentiful.

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D. "But the workers are few." The hurt is real and the gospel is good, but workers are needed. Jesus is concerned that the church will not take the gospel to the lost.

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F. We should pray earnestly, seriously, urgently. We should pray dependently, knowing that God has ordained to work through the prayers of His people to mobilize the advancement of His kingdom.

III. Respond to Jesus' Call (9:37-38)

**G. We should pray with an openness (10:1-8).
As we pray with earnestness for the Lord to
send out workers, we must also pray with an
openness that He might be sending us.**

Conclusion

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B. Christians have received the ministry of His grace, and are called to reflect His heart towards the lost.

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C. We are commanded to pray for God to send out workers into His harvest, and we need to be willing ourselves to respond to the need for workers.

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D. Have you received His ministry of grace? If you have, what is God calling you to do to proclaim the gospel?

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E. If you have not received the ministry of His grace, turn to Christ today. Repent and believe the gospel.

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F. The Gospel Definition

The gospel is the good news that the just and gracious God of the universe looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, God in human flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that everyone who turns from their sin (repentance) and believes in Him (faith) will be reconciled to God forever.