

Matthew 9:35-38

The Need for Workers



Verse	Details	Keywords	Revelation	Application
Matthew 9:35	Jesus travels through all the towns and villages, teaching in synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness.	Good news (euangelion) – gospel; Kingdom (basileia) – reign of God; Healing (therapeuō) – to cure, restore.	Jesus’ ministry is holistic—teaching truth, proclaiming the kingdom, and healing body and soul.	Follow Jesus’ model of ministry: combine sharing the gospel with compassionate action.
Matthew 9:36	Seeing the crowds, He has compassion on them because they are harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.	Compassion (splagchnizomai) – deep gut-level mercy; Sheep without a shepherd – image of spiritual need (Numbers 27:17; Ezekiel 34:5).	Jesus feels deep compassion and sees the true spiritual condition of people.	Pray for Christ’s heart of compassion to guide how you see and serve others.
Matthew 9:37	Then He says to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.'	Harvest (therismos) – great gathering of souls; Workers (ergatēs) – laborers in God’s mission.	People are ready to receive the gospel, but more willing servants are needed.	See the world as a ripe harvest field and be willing to serve in God’s mission.
Matthew 9:38	Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field.	Lord of the harvest – God who calls and sends; Send out (ekballō) – to drive out, thrust forth with urgency.	Prayer is essential for mobilizing workers and expanding God’s kingdom.	Regularly pray for and support missionaries, evangelists, and all who labor in God’s harvest.

Summary Revelation

Jesus shows the **heart of God’s mission**—proclaiming the kingdom, meeting physical and spiritual needs, and moving with deep compassion. The world is a ripe harvest, but there are few willing laborers. His call is clear: **pray and go**, joining Him in bringing people into God’s kingdom.

Cross References

Matthew 9:35

Jesus goes through towns and villages, teaching, proclaiming the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness.

Cross References

- Matthew 4:23 – Similar summary of Jesus’ ministry of teaching, preaching, and healing.
- Mark 6:6 – Jesus travels through villages teaching.
- Luke 4:43–44 – “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom to the other towns also.”
- Isaiah 61:1 – The Spirit of the Lord sends the Messiah to bring good news and healing.

Theme: Jesus’ ministry is holistic—He proclaims the kingdom, teaches truth, and heals body and soul.

Matthew 9:36

Seeing the crowds, He has compassion on them because they are harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Cross References

- Numbers 27:17 – God appoints a leader so Israel will not be like sheep without a shepherd.
- Ezekiel 34:5 – Sheep scattered because they have no shepherd.
- Mark 6:34 – Jesus has compassion because they are like sheep without a shepherd.
- John 10:11 – Jesus is the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep.

Theme: Christ’s heart breaks over lost and leaderless people, and He offers Himself as their true Shepherd.

Matthew 9:37

Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.”

Cross References

- John 4:35 – The fields are ripe for harvest.
- Luke 10:2 – “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.”
- 1 Corinthians 3:9 – “We are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field.”
- Revelation 14:15 – The time to reap the harvest of the earth has come.

Theme: The world is ready for the gospel, but more laborers are needed for the harvest.

Matthew 9:38

Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field.

Cross References

- Isaiah 6:8 – “Here am I. Send me!”
- Romans 10:14–15 – People cannot believe without someone being sent to preach.
- Acts 13:2–3 – The church prays and sends workers for mission.
- 2 Thessalonians 3:1 – Pray that the Lord’s message spreads rapidly.

Theme: Prayer mobilizes and empowers workers to carry the gospel to the world.
