

Workers for the Harvest

Welcome

What is the largest crowd of people you have ever been in? Were you comfortable or uncomfortable?

Worship

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21. Open in prayer, and praise God for reconciling us to Him through Jesus, making us into new creations, and using us to reconcile others to Him. Have each person express thanks and praise to Him.

Word

In Matthew 8 & 9, Jesus heals a man with leprosy, a centurion's servant, Peter's mother-in-law, and many other demon-possessed, paralyzed, blind, mute, and sick people. In these 2 chapters the Bible says that news about Jesus spread throughout the entire region. When we come to Matt. 9:35, Jesus is traveling, healing, teaching and preaching to a multitude of people.

Read Matthew 9:35-10:1

1. *By this time Jesus had a large crowd of people following Him.* What do you think were some of the reasons people wanted to see and hear Jesus?
2. Why do you suppose Jesus sees what He sees in the crowd of people?
3. Do you have the same compassion that Jesus does on the multitude of people who don't know Him as their Lord and Savior? Why, or why not?
4. When Jesus called His first disciples, what did he call them to do (Matt. 4:19)?
5. *Jesus says He needs more "workers."* Who are workers, and what is the work they are to be doing?
6. What is the first thing Jesus does in 10:1? What is Jesus' plan to "reap the harvest" in our day and time?
7. By your actions in the past year, would you consider yourself a "worker?" Why, or why not?

Witness

1. Pray that God will give you compassion for the multitudes.
 2. Pray that God would raise up "workers" in our church to reach this Valley.
 3. Pray that you would be obedient to God's call on your life as a "worker."
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Leaders Notes

Welcome

This question is to help break the ice.

Worship

These verses can change our lives if we let them. They talk about Jesus dying for us, so that we can be reconciled to God in order to help others be reconciled to Him, too. Only a heart that's reconciled can reconcile. That's as simple as it gets. God has given us so much, and He deserves all the glory and praise.

Word

1. Some had curiosity, intrigue, genuine faith, fascination, skepticism, doubt, or disbelief. If you were there, why would you have followed?
2. Jesus is traveling, preaching, healing, and teaching lots of people. Why does He now see the "crowd" of people and see them harassed and helpless? Jesus heart was always filled with compassion for the multitudes. His heart reflected the heart of His Father, love for each person as His child. He recognizes that He can't disciple each of them and that it will take many people to disciple the multitudes.
3. If you were to take an honest look at yourself, would you say that your heart's desire is for the multitudes of people in the San Fernando Valley, L.A., the U.S., and the world to come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior? That is the kind of compassion Jesus has for the crowds.
4. It says that he called them to be "fishers of men." From the beginning Jesus was training them to catch and eat men (kidding! just seeing if you're paying attention ☺). Jesus was training them to reach and disciple men who will do the same. Jesus' plan from the beginning was to reach the world by training disciples to train disciples until the world is reached. His plan hasn't changed.
5. The workers are men and women who are obedient to the call to reach others with the saving message of Jesus. The work they are to be doing is simply allowing God to use them to reach their friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers.
6. After Jesus has compassion on the crowd and recognizes it will take a lot of workers to bring in the harvest, He then calls his 12 and sends them out to do His ministry. His goal, from the time each person is saved, is that He would use believers to reach those He's placed in our lives.
7. This is the point of the lesson: That we would have the same compassion for the multitudes Jesus does so that we can reach our world for Him. Only our actions testify that we are committed to letting God work through us in reaching as many people as possible.

Witness

Spend the last few moments in prayer for those three things. We need God to do what He wants to do in us.