

Matthew 9:35-38 – Wanted: Shepherds

Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church – Sunday, January 14, 2024 PM

Matthew Context: Coming to close of two chapters following the S.O.M.

- Miracles: leper, Centurion's servant, many people, storm, Legion, Paralytic, Woman with issue of Blood, Raised Jairus' daughter back to life
- Discipleship: Man who volunteered (foxes).., man who was told (dead...), Matthew's call
- Teaching: Jesus' power to Forgive Sin, Fasting and Old Testament practices (wineskins)
- Reception & Resistance
- **Those who See:** Two blind men confess Jesus is the "Son of David" and a demoniac mute man was healed.
The blind could see better than the Pharisees. They rejected the work of Jesus as Satanic.

Immediate Context: Jesus leaves Capernaum for a ministry tour & will next ordain the 12 Apostles. **This is the bridge.**

Matt 9:35-38 – Jesus' Galilean tour

All we just experienced in the last five chapters (S.O.M. – Miracles) was repeated throughout Galilee.

The Condition of the Crowds (Matt 9:36)

Fainted – plundered, vexed, distressed

Scattered abroad – men thrown down and powerless on the ground, downcast

WPNT (Robertson) "they were harassed, importuned, bewildered by those who should have taught them, hindering them from entering into the kingdom of heaven (Mt. 23:13), and lading them with legalistic burdens of morality (Mt 23:1-4)."

Illus: The way Pharisees treated sinners (Mt 9:11)

Ezekiel 34:1-6 – A description of the impact of poor shepherding.

- They were left to the dangers of sin; not fed with truth; relentlessly oppressed.
- The broken were outcast rather than mended.
- They scattered without good leadership, nor sought after to return.

A Plentiful Harvest (Matt 9:37)

What did Jesus see?

A Plentiful Harvest – often used to describe judgment. **What is going on?**

Matthew 10:5-8 *These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.*

The Harvest is the lost sheep of Israel. Their souls were ripe: Seed of Law was sown & they needed water of gospel.

Some would see problems, but Jesus saw opportunity.

Illus: This has always been the way it has worked with any new gospel venture. China, Burma (Myanmar), London, America, Belize, Pakistan

What to Do with this Burden (Matt 9:38)

Lord of the Harvest – this is His.

Laborers – **Doing what?**

Proclaim the gospel, teach God's truth, heal broken lives – Encapsulated in the Great Commission.

Consider Abraham (Hebrews 11:8-16)

Genesis 18:17-19 *And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.*

Matthew 9:35-38 – Wanted: Shepherds

Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church – Sunday, January 14, 2024 PM

Consider the Generation that Received the Law (Deuteronomy 6:1-9) – Parents teach their children
Exodus 23:27-31 – The promise to take the land was multi-generational.

Consider the Generation that Entered the Promised Land (Judges 2:6-10) – They did not pass it along.
This was the perpetual cycle of Israel.

Malachi 4:5-6 – The ministry of John the Baptist was meant to revitalize multi-generational discipleship.

- The heart of a shepherd (laborer) is not just preaching. **If that is all there is, there will be no enduring work.**
- The heart of a shepherd (laborer) is caring and tending for real people so that the work endures.
They would need Barnabas (Paul), Priscilla & Aquilla (Apollos), Lydia (home), Titus 2 women, Stephanas, Luke...

Some of those hearing Jesus say this would be called to do this work.

The solution to the problem may not be without, but within.

What do you do when you see a great harvest (opportunity) and too few to take advantage of it?

Pray for laborers (disciplers).

The answer to this prayer multiplied the ministry of Christ and it continues to multiply.

Next Sunday night: Prayer meeting