

## **Sent With Compassion**

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### **Sermon Theme**

**Matthew 9:35-10:8**

**June 14, 2026**

Discipleship begins with seeing people through the compassionate eyes of Jesus and joining His healing work. In Matthew 9:35-10:8, Jesus sees weary and scattered people, tells His disciples to pray for workers, and then sends them into the harvest. His mission begins with compassion, and so does ours.

### **Big Idea**

Jesus does not look at hurting people with frustration or distance. He sees them with compassion. He sees people who are tired, pressured, wounded, lost, and in need of shepherding. Then He sends His disciples to carry His mercy into the world. We serve because we've freely received grace.

### **What the Passage Shows Us**

Jesus has been traveling through towns and villages, teaching, proclaiming the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness. His ministry is never just words, and it is never just works. He teaches truth, announces God's reign, and brings healing where life has become heavy. Then Matthew tells us what Jesus sees when He looks at the crowds. They are harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus does not see them as interruptions. He does not reduce them to their problems. He sees beloved people who need mercy, direction, healing, and hope.

That matters for us because discipleship begins with learning to see. We can look at people through fear, frustration, politics, reputation, or old wounds. Jesus teaches us to see deeper. The person who seems angry may be afraid. The person who seems distant may be grieving. The person who seems hard to love may be someone who has been poorly shepherded for a long time.

### **Compassion Comes Before Mission**

Before Jesus sends the disciples, He lets them stand near His compassion. They have watched Him welcome sinners, touch the unclean, forgive sin, heal the sick, and restore people others had counted out.

Jesus' compassion is not shallow pity. It moves Him toward people. He sees suffering and steps closer. He sees lostness and begins to shepherd. He sees spiritual hunger and announces the kingdom.

The Church's mission still begins there. We are not sent because we are impressive. We are sent because Jesus is compassionate.

### **The Harvest Is Plentiful**

Jesus tells His disciples that the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. That is both hopeful and urgent. Jesus does not say the field is hopeless. He does not say people are too far gone. He says there is a harvest.

God is already at work. Grace is already stirring. There are people who are hungry for truth, desperate for mercy, and ready for hope, even if they do not yet know how to name it.

So Jesus tells the disciples to pray to the Lord of the harvest. Prayer reminds us that the field belongs to God. The Church does not own the harvest. The pastor does not own the harvest. The Lord does.

### **The Ones Who Pray Are Sent**

Jesus tells the disciples to pray, and then He sends them. That is uncomfortable because sometimes we ask God to send somebody, and God says, "Yes, I'm sending you."

The disciples are ordinary people. Matthew names them honestly. There are fishermen, a tax collector, a zealot, and Judas, who will betray Jesus. The list is not polished. It is human.

That should give us hope. Jesus does not wait until His followers have everything figured out before He uses them. He sends people who are still growing. The power of the mission is not found in perfect messengers. It is found in the authority of Christ.

### **Freely Received, Freely Given**

Jesus tells the disciples to proclaim that the kingdom has come near. Then He tells them to heal, cleanse, raise, and deliver. Their words and actions are to show the mercy and power of God's kingdom.

Then He says, "Freely you have received; freely give." That is the heartbeat of Christian service. We do not give grace because people have earned it. We give because we did not earn it either. We do not serve from superiority. We serve as people who know what it is to be found, forgiven, carried, and restored.

### **What This Means for Us**

There are still people all around us who are harassed and helpless. Some are exhausted by grief. Some are carrying shame. Some are worried about their families. Some are lonely. Some have been hurt by the very people who should have shepherded them well.

Jesus sees them. The question is whether we will let Jesus teach us to see them too.

We cannot heal every wound or fix every broken thing. But we can carry the compassion of Christ into ordinary places. We can pray. We can notice people. We can speak good news. We can serve without keeping score. We can freely give because we have freely received.

This is not glamorous work most days. It is one visit, one prayer, one phone call, one meal, one patient conversation, one quiet act of mercy at a time. But in the hands of Jesus, ordinary compassion becomes kingdom work.

### **Key Truths**

Jesus sees weary people with compassion.

Compassion comes before mission.

The harvest belongs to God.

Prayer prepares us to join God's work.

Jesus sends ordinary, imperfect disciples.

The authority for ministry comes from Christ.

The kingdom is proclaimed through words and mercy.

We freely give because we have freely received.

### **Questions for Reflection**

Where do I see people who are harassed and helpless today?

Who do I struggle to see with the compassion of Jesus?

How might God be calling me to become part of the answer to my own prayers?

What grace have I freely received from Christ?

What would it look like to freely give that grace this week?

Where can I offer one ordinary act of mercy in Jesus' name?

### **Takeaway**

Matthew 9:35-10:8 shows Jesus looking at weary people with compassion and sending His disciples into the harvest. He does not call them because they are perfect. He calls them because the need is real, the harvest is plentiful, and His grace is enough. The Church is still sent with compassion. We are called to see with the eyes of Jesus, pray to the Lord of the harvest, and join His healing work in the world.

### **Key Verse**

"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

Matthew 9:36