

Meditation 1 - January 4-5

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

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

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Matt 9:35-10:1 NIV

Communicating the good news was Jesus' daily activity. This was one of the main purposes of his coming to earth. The messages he preached were messages of hope – and they found glad ears wherever he went. Those people who were living in despair were suddenly lifted to the possibility that their lives could be different. Who around you could use some good news today?

Lord, this is my prayer, and our prayer as a church:

“Lord of the Harvest, send forth laborers into your harvest field.”

Meditation 2 – January 6-7

Jesus went *through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues*, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

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

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Matt 9:35-10:1 NIV

Jesus went wherever people were. He did not wait for them to come to him, but he traveled to towns and villages carrying the good news. He went to villages and synagogues, bringing hope to both religious people and non-religious people. People who claim to be religious, as well as people who want nothing to do with religion, all need what Jesus offers: a brand new life that is connected to its Maker through Christ.

Lord, this is my prayer, and our prayer as a church:

“Lord of the Harvest, send forth laborers into your harvest field.”

Meditation 3 - January 8-9

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom *and healing every disease and sickness*.

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

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Matt 9:35-10:1 NIV

Jesus was in tune to the needs of people. His eyes were off of himself enough to see that there were people around him with profound needs. He did not see people as ones to meet his own needs, but he saw them as deprived and disadvantaged. He offered power to change their lives.

Lord, this is my prayer, and our prayer as a church:

“Lord of the Harvest, send forth laborers into your harvest field.”

Meditation 4 - January 10-11

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and *healing every disease and sickness*.

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

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Matt 9:35-10:1 NIV

Jesus prayed for those around him that they would be healed of every kind of sickness and disease. The Greek words for sickness and disease here indicate all kinds of maladies; especially moral or physical disabilities. There is great power in Jesus' name for healing. Who around you needs prayer for healing of heart, mind or body?

Lord, this is my prayer, and our prayer as a church:

“Lord of the Harvest, send forth laborers into your harvest field.”

Meditation 5 - January 12-13

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

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

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Matt 9:35-10:1 NIV

Jesus noticed people. He took time out of very demanding and busy days to be aware of the people that the Father had put around him. He sharpened his consciousness to observe, to discern, to perceive the state of people around him. Take a little extra time to notice the people around you today... the cashier, the co-worker, the family member, the neighbor.

Lord, this is my prayer, and our prayer as a church:

“Lord of the Harvest, send forth laborers into your harvest field.”

Meditation 6 - January 14-15

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

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

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Matt 9:35-10:1 NIV

Everything that Jesus did was born out of a heart that was motivated with compassion. He did not do what he did out of duty, or as works that would give him favor with his Father. He did what he did out of genuine kindness and empathy for others. Ask the Father to give you this heart of compassion for those around you.

Lord, this is my prayer, and our prayer as a church:

“Lord of the Harvest, send forth laborers into your harvest field.”

Meditation 7 – January 16-17

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

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

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Matt 9:35-10:1 NIV

People are lost. They need to be shepherded back into the fold of the Father. Jesus acted out of a heart of a shepherd as he spoke truth and connected people to the Father. Ask the Great Shepherd to give you his heart to guide others into the life that you enjoy in Christ.

Lord, this is my prayer, and our prayer as a church:

“Lord of the Harvest, send forth laborers into your harvest field.”

Meditation 8 – January 18-19

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

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

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Matt 9:35-10:1 NIV

These are the words of Jesus to those who follow him. As we grow in maturity, we begin to be in tune with the heart of the Father. Jesus reveals the Father’s heart in direct words to anyone who is listening: “Look at the harvest, pray for workers.”

Lord, this is my prayer, and our prayer as a church:

“Lord of the Harvest, send forth laborers into your harvest field.”

Meditation 9 – January 20-21

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

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

Then he said to his disciples, "*The harvest is plentiful* but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Matt 9:35-10:1 NIV

The harvest is plentiful. There are many in need. In Jesus' day, the most important time of the year was harvest time. There was a small window of opportunity to reap the precious harvest, upon which their survival depended. Jesus is pressing upon his disciples the need to reap this harvest of souls before it is too late. Fallen grain or rotted grapes are not an option. We must act while there is time.

Lord, this is my prayer, and our prayer as a church:

“Lord of the Harvest, send forth laborers into your harvest field.”

Meditation 10 – January 22-23

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

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

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful *but the workers are few*. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Matt 9:35-10:1 NIV

There are not enough workers to fill the need. The supply does not meet the demand. Jesus tells us precious few things to pray for during his 3½ years of ministry. When he does, he reveals the heart of the Father to us. Here he opens the veil and reveals what concerns him. It is workers that the Kingdom of God needs. While we are asking for our daily bread and for forgiveness, let's also ask for laborers to be sent into the harvest.

Lord, this is my prayer, and our prayer as a church:

“Lord of the Harvest, send forth laborers into your harvest field.”

Meditation 11 - January 24-25

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

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

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the **Lord of the harvest**, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Matt 9:35-10:1 NIV

His name is Lord of the Harvest. Throughout scripture, God reveals his character and nature to us through his names. We come to know him as Creator, Redeemer, Sovereign Lord. But here he reveals yet another aspect of his character: he is the Lord of the Harvest. This is encouraging to us because we know that he is in control of the process of bringing souls to Himself. We are merely to be obedient co-workers with him. We also know that when we pray this harvest prayer, we are praying his perfect will and he will answer those prayers (1 John 5:14-15).

Lord, this is my prayer, and our prayer as a church:

“Lord of the Harvest, send forth laborers into your harvest field.”

Meditation 12 - January 26-27

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

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

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to **send out workers** into his harvest field."

He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Matt 9:35-10:1 NIV

When Jesus said these words, he chose them very carefully. The Greek word that is translated “send out” literally means “to thrust out” or “eject” or “to drive out”. The need is urgent, so the action must also be urgent. The harvest is perishing, so the need is for the Father to accelerate the advance. Jesus urges prayer for an expedition of the gospel, or workers to announce that gospel. Let’s pray for this.

Lord, this is my prayer, and our prayer as a church:

“Lord of the Harvest, send forth laborers into your harvest field.”

Meditation 13 - January 28-29

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

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

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into *his harvest field.*"

He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Matt 9:35-10:1 NIV

The harvest field is *his*. The laborers are *his*. The harvest is *his*. The Kingdom is *his*. The Glory is *his*. The work is *his*. It is his Spirit that empowers us. It is his Spirit that reveals Christ, that convicts and draws men and women to himself. We should not bear any weight of the work outside of mere obedience to love people and share the Good News. He takes responsibility for the work. Ask the Lord of the Harvest to give us courage and faith to believe him to do his work as we do ours.

Lord, this is my prayer, and our prayer as a church:

“Lord of the Harvest, send forth laborers into your harvest field.”

Meditation 14 - January 30-31

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

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

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Matt 9:35-10:1 NIV

Jesus never commands us to do something without empowering us to do it. When he called his disciples to himself, he gave them authority and then sent them into the harvest field. This prayer for laborers to be sent into the harvest culminated in the disciples themselves going to reap this harvest that was so dear to their Lord.

Lord, this is my prayer, and our prayer as a church:

“Lord of the Harvest, send forth laborers into your harvest”