



Vision 2018: Harvest
Message Notes, January 7, 2017
Matthew 9:35-10:1

As recorded in Matthew 9:35-10:1, Jesus sees the multitudes and is deeply moved for they are “harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd.” Jesus turns to his disciples and urges them to pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send out workers into his harvest field. This is soon followed by Jesus sending them out, two by two, to proclaim the good news of the kingdom.

Four Pillars for the Call to Harvest

1. It begins with the glory of God.
 - Jesus tells his disciples to pray (to look, cry out) to the Lord of the harvest. This is His harvest field. He is at work in it. He desires to see it reaped. He is the Lord; this is all for His glory.
 - We do not go to give the world ourselves; we go to give them the Lord. The glorious One who loves them, can save them, and has life for them.
2. We must have a proper view of the world.
 - We must avoid two unhealthy postures: A) Condemnation – the world is evil and must be avoided. We must isolate ourselves from it. B) Compromise – blending into the culture of the world out of a selfish longing for what it offers.
 - We must respond, as Jesus did, with compassion and redemption. He saw the the world in its need and brokenness, but responded with a heart (and action) for redemption – rescuing the world from lostness; healing the world’s brokenness; restoring the world to life.
3. This call must be fueled by love.
 - The compassion Jesus felt moved him to action. Love expressed tangibly (in ministry, proclamation and the Cross).
 - We need Holy Spirit to cultivate God’s heart of love in us for others. This is not something we “work up.” The more we embrace God’s deep love for us, the more that love will flow from us to others.
4. This call culminates in the command to GO.
 - After calling the disciples to pray to the Lord of the harvest for more workers, Jesus sent them out. The literal translation is that Jesus “thrust them out” into the harvest field. We are not praying for God to send others (alone); we are praying that He will send out others to come alongside as we ourselves answer the call to harvest.
 - One could argue – if we are not “going to make disciples” we are not really Christ-followers. Jesus modeled for us and commanded us to go – to proclaim the gospel, to take the kingdom, to make disciples! If we aren’t, we are not following.
 - To be a Christian is “to know Him and make Him known.”
 - This “go-ing” is best translated as “as you go” or “in your going.” This is not (for most of us) a call to go across the ocean. His call to harvest is that all of us take the life and gospel to those around us, everywhere we go. Each of us is a missionary wherever we are, to family, friends, colleagues, neighbors and even strangers we encounter “as we go.”

Let us pray to the Lord of the harvest for more workers, even as we commit ourselves to the harvest, to share Jesus and His gospel, in word and deed, to those we encounter as we are going, day by day.