

Creating Space. Expecting Harvest Praying to the Lord of the Harvest

Matthew 9:35-10:5
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Introduction

- Margin > Capacity > Blessing > Responsibility
 - E.g. time, energy, finances
 - E.g. the volleyball team I coached; adding players creates opportunities
 - The importance of recruiting players and training them.
- Context of this message
 - Creating Space / Expecting Harvest
- Context of this passage
 - Jesus in full ministry mode
 - Chapters 5-7 The Sermon on the Mount
 - Chapters 8-15 Ministry: Compassion ministry and Teaching ministry
 - Chapter 9:1-34
 - Matthew 9:1-8 Jesus forgives and heals a paralyzed man
 - Matthew 9:9-13 The calling of Matthew
 - Matthew 9:14-17 Jesus questioned about fasting
 - Matthew 9:18-26 Jesus raises a dead girl and heals a sick woman
 - Matthew 9:27-34 Jesus heals the blind and the mute
 - Matthew 9:35-10:5 Jesus sees the needs and calls to prayer
 - Matthew 9:35 Jesus walks through all the towns
 - Teaching
 - Proclaiming
 - Healing
 - Matthew 9:36 Jesus' sees the need
 - Matthew 9:37-38 Jesus calls the disciples to pray and charges them to go

Jesus walks through the towns (Matthew 9:35)

- Teaching
- Proclaiming
- Healing

Jesus's sees the need (Matthew 9:36)

- Eyes of God
 - Eyes UP with expectancy
 - Not down (e.g. when I dressed as a student, focused on my world)
 - Question: What keeps us from seeing what God wants us to see?
- Feels compassion
 - 3 ways to see people
 - Scenery > I see the need with my HEAD only.
 - Utility > I see the need with my HEART but don't do.
 - People > I am moved to DO something (HANDS)
- Because they were "harassed and helpless" (other translations?)
 - Distressed, wearied, harassed
 - Cast away, dispirited, scattered abroad, helpless
- Like sheep without a shepherd

Jesus calls the disciples to pray (Matthew 9:37-38)

- Name of God for prayer ("the Lord of the Harvest")
 - What we call God should reflect how we see Him in that moment
 - E.g. Healer, Sovereign Lord, Lover of my Soul
 - Which attribute of God is most precious to you today? Why?
- Call to pray often comes before a call to action

Jesus charges the disciples to go (Matthew 10:1-5)

- The call of God
- Responding to God

Conclusion

- Prayer is rarely the end. It is often the catalyst.
- Hebrews 11:6 says, "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." How earnestly are you seeking Him right now? And what would it look like for you to do so?
- You're about to put feet to Jesus's call to pray; Video directions from Tony

Study questions for Life Groups

1. How has God blessed you lately?
2. Have you seen examples of how God's blessings to you have enabled you to bless others?
3. How can you increasingly see those in your *oikos* as Jesus sees them?
4. What things keep you from seeing the needs of others?
5. Are you willing to pray for God to send laborers? If so, how would you feel if He asked YOU to be one of them?
6. How do you hear God speak to you?
7. Hebrews 11:6 says, "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." How earnestly are you seeking Him right now? And what would it look like for you to do so?

Take some time, even now, for God to send out laborers from LEFC and for God to grow our capacity to send them.