

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." Matthew 9:35-38 (NIV)

Use Me

That is my prayer. That is my request. **What is your prayer? What is your request?** I want you to use me. **How do you want me to use you?** I want you to use me to bear fruit for your Kingdom. I want you to use me for your glory. **That is a very good prayer.** **That is an excellent request.** **Do you believe that I will use you to bear fruit for my Kingdom and bring glory to my name?** **Maybe an even better question would be, "Do you believe that I am now using you for my kingdom and glory?"** **Do you know that I am bearing fruit for my Kingdom through your life right now?** I know why those are two very good questions for me to consider at this moment. **Why is that?** I sometimes have my doubts. I sometimes become discouraged. I know that I am impatient. I want to see more fruit born through my life for your kingdom. I want to bring more glory to your name. **Those are not wrong desires within you. However, there is something that I must remind you.** What's that? **Sowing and reaping do not occur in the same season.** Sometimes reaping occurs quite a while after sowing. There will be some reaping and harvesting that you will never see. Some of your efforts will bear fruit of which you will only learn about once you are in heaven with me. I see, I understand. **You must not become so impatient or discouraged that you give up and quit.** That would be a tragic mistake. I will never become discouraged, give up, and quit. **That is very good.**

I need to point something else out to you. What's that? **You are working hard in my harvest field.** Yes, I am. **Why would I also ask you to pray for more workers in my harvest field? Aren't you busy enough?** That thought has crossed my mind. Think hard, why am I also asking you to pray for more workers in my harvest field? There aren't enough workers. **That is true, what else?** You want others to join me in the work. **Yes, I want others to join you in the work.** Will you be encouraged as others join you in the work? Will you be spurred on by others joining you in the work? Will you keep on serving me as others come to work side by side with you in the work? Yes, I will. I see your point. **Will you pray for others to join you to work in my harvest field?** Yes, I will. **That will be very good. Together you will reap a rich harvest for my kingdom.** Thank you, Lord.

Lord, use me to serve in your harvest field. Help me to also pray for others to serve in your harvest field. Let there be a rich harvest for your kingdom. May there be a multitude that come to know, love, follow, and serve you. Use us for your kingdom and glory. Amen

The Compassionate Life *He Had Compassion On Them*

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."

NIV

Matthew 9:35-38

The Compassionate Life *He Had Compassion On Them*

Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."

NLT

Matthew 9:35-38

The Compassionate Life *He Had Compassion On Them*

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

NRSV

Matthew 9:35-38

The Compassionate Life *He Was Moved With Pity*

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news (the Gospel) of the kingdom and curing all kinds of disease and every weakness and infirmity. When He saw the throngs, He was moved with pity and sympathy for them, because they were bewildered (harassed and distressed and dejected and helpless), like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, The harvest is indeed plentiful, but the laborers are few. So pray to the Lord of the harvest to force out and thrust laborers into His harvest.

AMP

Matthew 9:35-38

The Compassionate Life *Felt Compassion For Them*

Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. Then He *said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. "Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

NASB

Matthew 9:35-38

The Compassionate Life *He Had Compassion For Them*

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

ESV

Matthew 9:35-38

The Compassionate Life *Moved With Compassion For Them*

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

NKJV

Matthew 9:35-38

The Compassionate Life

His Heart Broke

Then Jesus made a circuit of all the towns and villages. He taught in their meeting places, reported kingdom news, and healed their diseased bodies, healed their bruised and hurt lives. When he looked out over the crowds, his heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd. "What a huge harvest!" he said to his disciples. "How few workers! On your knees and pray for harvest hands!"

MSG

Matthew 9:35-38

The Compassionate Life

What Pity He Felt

Jesus traveled around through all the cities and villages of that area, teaching in the Jewish synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And wherever he went he healed people of every sort of illness. And what pity he felt for the crowds that came, because their problems were so great and they didn't know what to do or where to go for help. They were like sheep without a shepherd. "The harvest is so great, and the workers are so few," he told his disciples. "So pray to the one in charge of the harvesting, and ask him to recruit more workers for his harvest fields."

TLB

Matthew 9:35-38

The Compassionate Life

Felt Sorry For Them

Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Good News about the kingdom, and healing all kinds of diseases and sicknesses. When he saw the crowds, he felt sorry for them because they were hurting and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus said to his followers, "There are many people to harvest but only a few workers to help harvest them. Pray to the Lord, who owns the harvest, that he will send more workers to gather his harvest."

NCV

Matthew 9:35-38

He Had Compassion On Them

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

The Compassionate Life – Matthew 9:35-38

In Context: Read Matthew 9

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: (***What is God speaking to your heart?***)

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Considering The Words: (***What words speak to your heart?***)

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." Matthew 9:35-38 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: (***What prayer from your heart will you write?***)

Lord, use me to serve in your harvest field. Help me to also pray for others to serve in your harvest field. Let there be a rich harvest for your kingdom. May there be a multitude that come to know, love, follow, and serve you. Use us for your kingdom and glory. Amen

What It Means: (***What questions speak to your heart?***)

(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)

How has compassion for others given you a desire to minister to them?

When has the Lord used you as a shepherd to guard and guide lost sheep?

How has the Lord used you to teach, preach, or minister healing to someone in need?

When did someone minister to you when you were like a harassed and helpless sheep?

How has the Lord been using you as a worker in His harvest field?

How are you continually praying for others to enter the Lord's harvest field?

Why will you never regret the time and effort you spent laboring in the Lord's harvest field?

Living It Out:

(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Pray that the Lord will powerfully use you and a multitude of others to compassionately serve in His harvest field.

Seeing It Happen:

(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that the Lord will use you to serve and pray for others to serve in His harvest field.

Get Ready To Share:

(What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how you are serving and praying for others to serve the Lord.

Close With Prayer:

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration...

Thanksgiving...

Confession...

Intercession...

Petition...

He Had Compassion On Them

Matthew 9

Year ____ Week ____ Day ____ Date ____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(*What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?*)

May your compassion for others motivate your desire to serve the Lord in His harvest field.

Prayer To Carry

(*What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?*)

Lord, I will pray for others to serve in your harvest field as I serve in it myself.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(*What Would You Like To Ask God?*)

Lord, how do you want to use me in your harvest field today?
