

Dwelling in the Word

Prayerfully read Matt 9:35-10:15 and ask: 1) What words, phrases, or images stood out to you? 2) What does this say about what God desires to accomplish in you? 3) How could you respond to what God says in this passage?

Beginning the Conversation

1. Do you see yourself as a “missionary”? How do you understand the notion that God invites all of us to join him on mission in this world? What can that look like? How is this different from how you typically understand what a “missionary” is?
2. What does compassion look like in the ministry of Jesus, and how does it lead to prayer? How does compassion lead to meeting people’s needs?

Digging Deeper *(pick some of the following questions to discuss as a group)*

1. What was Jesus’ twofold response to seeing the crowds in 9:36? What does this teach us about the heart of God for humanity? What does this teach us about how we should view others?
2. Read Matthew 10:1, 7-8. How do you understand the relationship between Jesus’ proclaiming “the kingdom of heaven has come near” and his ministry of healing?
3. In Jesus’ guidelines for mission (10:9-10) he instructs his disciples to travel simply and rely on those who received them. What do you think of his instructions? What can we learn from them today?
4. Do you know any “Persons of Peace” (i.e., someone who welcomes you, receives you, listens to you, serves you, and responds to you) in your neighbourhood? How have they helped you love your neighbours?
5. What do you think of Jesus’ instructions to move on from those who reject them or their message (10:14)? While we need to understand this in the context of first century hospitality conventions, do you think there is some wisdom in this today? In what situations do you think it may be appropriate?
6. Read 10:16-42. What does this passage say about the dangers that mission may entail? How should we understand this today from a global and local perspective?
7. Jesus says, “The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master” (Matt 10:24). What does this say about what it means to follow Jesus?
8. The proclamation of the kingdom confronts people with a decision whether to respond positively or negatively to Jesus. Have you ever experienced division in your family or among your friends because of Jesus? How did you react?

Living it Out

1. In what ways can Jesus’ teaching, “freely you have received; freely give,” shape our posture towards others?
2. In some ways, the disciples answered their own prayer for God to send more workers. How can you implement this idea in your own life?

The Co-Mission of the King (9:35–10:42)



Discourse 2
Mission of the
Kingdom (8–10)

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Pastor Tyler Williams
Greenfield Community Church

The Co-Mission of the King

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

And when he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field’” (9:35-38).

The Basis of All Mission

The Compassion of the King: “And when he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them” (9:36a).

- Jesus’ motivation was empathy and compassion (*splagchnizomai* σπλαγχνίζομαι) – refers to one’s intestines/guts, i.e., “gut wrenching” (14:14; 15:32; 18:27; 20:34; Luke 10:33; Phil 1:8; cf. John 3:16).

The Basis of All Mission

The Great Need of the People: “because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd” (9:36b).

- The people are “harassed and helpless” and without good guidance.
- “Sheep without shepherds” is an OT idiom for people who are floundering (see Num 27:17; 2Chron 18:16; Ezek 34:5-6).

The Basis of All Mission

Urges his Disciples to Pray for Workers (9:37-38).

- Pray for “the Lord of the harvest” to send out workers.
- From a human perspective, *mission begins with prayer.*



The Co-Mission of the King

Jesus *authorizes* his disciples to join his mission (10:1-4).

- Calls them “apostles” (αποστολος *apostolos*) – “sent one”; i.e., those who are commissioned for a specific task.
- The number 12 echoes the 12 tribes of Israel and that their mission is a fulfillment of the hopes of Israel.
- Jesus commissions them despite their being woefully inadequate.

The Extent of the Mission

Limited Scope: “Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel” (10:5-6; cf. 15:24).

- An intermediate stage in what will become the universal mission of the church in Matthew 28:18-20 and described in detail the Book of Acts (1:8).

The Nature of the Mission

The Message: “As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give” (10:7-8).

- Their mission is to mirror Jesus’ mission (3:2 and 4:17).
- The focus is on the proclamation of the kingdom, which is exemplified and expanded by four commands.
- They are to reflect the grace and generosity they have been shown.

Guidelines for the Mission

Travel Simply: “Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts — no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep” (10:9-10).

- They are not to “sell” the good news or profit from any healings.
- Like other itinerant preachers and teachers, they are to be supported by those who receive them (“The worker is worth his keep”).

Guidelines for the Mission

Accept Hospitality (10:11-15).

- They are to go to where they are welcome (10:11).
- A “Person of Peace”: Someone who welcomes you, receives you, listens to you, serves you, and responds to you (esp. in Luke).
- They are instructed not to bother with those who reject them or their message (10:14). “Shaking the dust off their feet” indicates they had done their duty and are no longer responsible.

Warnings for Mission

1. **Brings Danger:** “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves” (10:16-20; 23-31).
 - The Spirit will tell you what to say; do not fear (10:19-20; 26-31).
2. **Brings Division:** “You will be hated by everyone because of me” (10:21-22; 32-36).
3. **Brings Decision:** “Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me” (10:37-42).

Conclusions



The mission is not ours, but God's.

But God has graciously invited us to join him on mission.

Invitation



Some questions:

- What motivates us to mission? Are we moved by empathy, compassion, and love?
- Do we pray for more workers? Are we willing to be the answer to our own prayers?