



1

Matthew 9 - 10 (ESV)

- *Jesus travels through towns teaching, healing, and showing compassion to crowds who are lost and hurting.*
- *He tells His disciples that the harvest of people who need God is large, but the workers are few.*
- *He commands them to pray earnestly for God to send more laborers into the harvest.*
- *He chooses twelve ordinary men and gives them His authority to heal, help, and cast out evil.*

2

Matthew 9 - 10 (ESV)

- *Jesus sends apostles first to the lost sheep of Israel to preach that God's Kingdom has come near.*
- *They are told to freely give what they have freely received - trusting God for their needs.*
- *He warns that not everyone will welcome them, and some will reject the message.*
- *He prepares them for hardship, persecution, and even family division because of His name.*

3

Matthew 9 - 10 (ESV)

- *Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will give His apostles the words to speak when they face opposition.*
- *He tells them not to fear people, but to fear and trust God, who cares for their souls.*

4

Theme

Jesus still does the saving, healing, restoring work - and now He sends us to join Him.

- Jesus compassion for the crowds in Matthew 9 is the same compassion He has now.
- He invites believers to join Him in His mission.
- He sends ordinary people - not just pastors - to love, pray, encourage & share hope.

5

Theme

- The world is full of people who need God & Jesus calls us to pray & go.
- The harvest is plentiful & He asks us to be willing workers.
- Following Jesus may be challenging, but God gives us His authority, His Spirit & His courage.
- We don't go alone - God equips us for whatever He calls us to do.

6



7

Jesus Calls Us to Pray

- Jesus said the harvest is already ready - people everywhere need hope, forgiveness & direction.
- The shortage is not lost people but willing believers.
- God is not waiting for the world to get worse; He is waiting for His people to step forward (Matthew 9:37).
- Jesus commands earnest prayer, not occasional prayer.
- He doesn't say "pray if you think about it" - He says "pray earnestly."

8

Jesus Calls Us to Pray

- Many believers pray casually or wait for pastors to do the work - Jesus wants heartfelt, regular prayer for people who need Him (Matthew 9:38).
- Comfort keeps many believers on the sidelines - "We're too comfortable being comfortable."
- Comfort can make us passive — we avoid conversations, avoid risk & avoid stepping out in faith.

9

Jesus Calls Us to Pray

- Jesus calls us to move beyond comfort into compassion.
4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. (Philippians 2:4 ESV)
- Every believer is called into ministry.
- Pastors equips every Christian for ministry ("You're in ministry... you're on the front lines.")
- Ministry is not a job title; it's a lifestyle of loving people in Jesus' name. (Ephesians 4:11–12)

10

Jesus Calls Us to Pray

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up (Ephesians 4:11–12 ESV)

- A willing "yes" is what God uses.
- He doesn't need our perfection - He needs our availability.

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8 ESV)

11

God
Uses Ordinary
PEOPLE for
Extraordinary
THINGS



12

God Uses Ordinary People

- Jesus uses ordinary, imperfect people - Peter (impulsive), Thomas (doubter), Matthew (tax collector), and others.
- Their flaws show that Jesus chooses regular people — not spiritual superheroes — to carry His message.
- Authority comes from Jesus, not from us (Matthew 10:1).
- The power to help, pray, encourage, or speak truth does not come from our strength but from Jesus' Spirit working through us (2 Corinthians 4:7).

13

God Uses Ordinary People

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. (2 Corinthians 4:7 ESV)

- We often don't see miracles because we never try.
- Many believers never step out in faith — so they never see God move.
- God often works when we take the first step.

17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. (James 2:17 ESV)

14

God Uses Ordinary People

- Jesus sends us to declare & demonstrate the Kingdom.
- Words & actions together show the reality of God's Kingdom.
- Spiritual needs around us are opportunities for Kingdom work.
 - Bring hope to the discouraged
 - Share Jesus with the spiritually dead
 - Comfort the isolated
 - Help those battling fear, addiction, or despair

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Facing Hardships

- Obedience to Jesus is not the 'safe' path.
- Following Jesus doesn't guarantee an easy life - It means trusting Him even when obedience is costly.
- Jesus warns His disciples they will face opposition — even from family.
- Believers around the world still suffer for their faith.
- Hardship is not a sign of failure; it is part of discipleship.

18

Facing Hardships

- Fear of man keeps believers silent.
 - Fear of rejection, embarrassment, or conflict can keep us from speaking about Jesus.
 - Scripture calls us to courage.
- 25 Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe. (Proverbs 29:25 ESV)***
- Jesus promises that when we speak for Him, the Holy Spirit will guide our words.

19

Facing Hardships

- If God helps disciples before governors, He can help us talk to a neighbor or friend.
- Jesus says to fear the One who holds our soul, not those who can harm the body.
- Understanding God's holiness helps us appreciate His mercy & frees us from fearing human opinions.

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Practical Applications

- Pray daily for one person who needs Jesus - Ask the Lord of the harvest to move in their life.
- Offer compassion to someone who feels lonely or discouraged - A visit, a smile, or a listening ear reflects Jesus' heart.
- Share a personal story of God's faithfulness - Your testimony can bring hope and point someone to Christ.
- Join or start a small prayer circle - Two or three praying together strengthens the whole community.

21

Practical Applications

- Encourage staff members by name - A kind word can brighten the day of those who care for you.
- Pray with someone who is hurting - A short prayer can bring comfort, peace, and courage.
- Welcome new residents warmly - Help them feel seen, valued, and at home.
- Write Scripture-based encouragement cards - A simple verse can lift a weary heart.

22

Practical Applications

- Participate in worship and Bible study with expectancy - Your presence and faith encourage others.
- Live with visible joy and gratitude - Hope would be a powerful witness in this facility.

23

Discussion Questions

- Where do you see the "plentiful harvest" around you in our community?
- What fears make it hard to speak about your faith & how does Jesus address those fears?
- Who is one person God may be calling you to pray for or encourage this week?
- How have you seen God use ordinary people - including yourself - to do extraordinary things?

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