

Matthew 9 : 35 - 39**The workers are few**

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

36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

37 Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'

For Fun

1. Ask whoever is leading tonight to try pronouncing 'splanchnistheis' (compassion) and 'eskulmenoi' (harassed) and 'Errimenoi' (helpless)
2. Offer them a generous round of applause!

The First Missionary Trip

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

1. The speaker described this as the very first missionary trip - the realisation of Jesus's words from Luke 19:10 'For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost'. Do you agree?
2. The second missionary trip followed quickly - read Matt 10 1 and 5-17. Why do you think Jesus gave the disciples such an unprecedented set of detailed instructions?
3. For missionary work today, what can we take from these instructions?

Mission Motivation

36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

1. The speaker spent some time on these words, teasing out the meanings.
2. Can you recall some of the alternative words used for Harassed and Helpless?
3. How can we avoid 'compassion fatigue' when faced with great needs?

Action

37 Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'

1. If FBC were to do local mission ('deliberately going out into our local community to look for the lost') what could we do?
2. How can we (as individuals and as a group) pray more often and more fervently for 'workers to be sent into His harvest field'?
3. Pray for FBC's workers (the Venings, the Browns, the Mathesons and Jon Carlisle), for our missions team and for mission organisations that you support.