

Year A - 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 9:36 - 10:8

He summoned his twelve disciples and sent them out



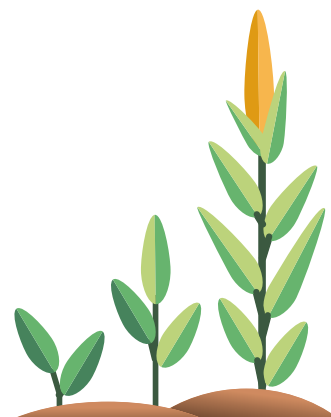
When Jesus saw the crowds, he felt sorry for them.

They were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, "A large crop is in the fields, but there are only a few workers. Ask the Lord in charge of the harvest to send out workers to bring it in."

Jesus called together his twelve disciples. He gave them the power to force out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and sickness.

The first of the twelve apostles was Simon, better known as Peter. His brother Andrew was an apostle, and so were James and John, the two sons of Zebedee. Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew the tax collector, James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus were also apostles. The others were Simon, known as the Eager One, and Judas Iscariot, who later betrayed Jesus. Jesus sent out the twelve apostles with these instructions: "Stay away from the Gentiles and don't go to any Samaritan town. Go only to the people of Israel, because they are like a flock of lost sheep.

"As you go, announce that the kingdom of heaven will soon be here. Heal the sick, raise the dead to life, heal people who have leprosy, and force out demons. You received without paying, now give without being paid."



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The harvest



Introduction

- Have you ever heard the phrase, the harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few? This Gospel reading is where it comes from.
- What do you think it means?

Message

- The harvest is when the crops that a farmer has planted - the wheat, the grains, the potatoes., whatever it is - when they are the harvest and when it's time to pick and pull them from the ground, you need to have the workers, the people around to do it quickly before they spoil.
- But why do you think we talk about it today here at Church? What harvest would we be talking about and who are the workers?
- Well the harvest is the Good News - that people would know God and know just how much he loves them. And if that is the harvest who are the workers?
- It's us! You and I who know this already, it's our job to tell others all about God and his great love for us.
- We can tell people through our words and we can tell them through our actions, how we treat others, how we speak to and about other people. When we let God's love shine through us, other people get to see how good he is.

Discussion

- What do you think the harvest in would be for us today?
- What does it mean to be a worker for God?
- Are the disciples good examples of workers?
- What are some things we could do to be good workers for God?

