

What Jesus Said

11. Matthew 9:35-38 *Jesus shows compassion*

This story is found in the Gospel of St. Matthew, the ninth chapter between verses 35 and 38 – we write it like this: **Matthew 9:35-38**. *BibleHomework* uses this format throughout its website.

The Scripture:

Matthew 9:35 - Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

9:36 - When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

9:37 - Then he said to his disciples, **“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.**

9:38 - **Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”**

The Explanation:

As Jesus continued His Ministry he noticed that the crowds that followed him here are frustrated, without direction – like *‘sheep without a shepherd’* and he felt a huge compassion for them. His comment next shows that the Disciples are going to go into their next recruitment phase! He’s asking God to send the Disciples out to help with the healing, preaching, ministering and casting out of demons. It’s a *key moment* in St. Matthew’s Gospel as so far it has all been about Jesus doing all this work Himself. The Disciples are about to be set to work!

Places and People Mentioned:

The Disciples

Jesus had twelve Disciples (also referred to as ‘The Apostles), they are: 1. **Simon**, who is called **Peter**, 2. **Andrew** his brother, 3. **James** the son of

Zebedee, 4. **John** his brother, 5. **Philip**, 6. **Bartholomew**, 7. **Thomas**, 8. **Matthew** the tax collector, 9. **James** the son of Alphaeus, 10. **Thaddaeus**, also known as Judas son of James or Judas the Good), 11. **Simon** the Zealot and 12. **Judas** Iscariot.

Questions:

1. Jesus had been travelling for some time yet the crowds followed and the work was still plentiful. What phrases does He use to describe that there is so much work to do?
2. Who is the Lord of the Harvest?
3. What do you think is Jesus' plan in sending out **"workers into the field"**?