

EMPOWERED BY JESUS

Week 4

October 9–10, 2021

Wes Duff



WARM-UP

What is your favorite fall dish or dessert?

DISCUSS

- Share about a time when you had a lot of work to be done and needed help, but there was no one to help you.
o How did you feel?
o How would the job have gone better if you had had help?

Read Matthew 9:35–38

- What was the task at hand here in this passage?
• Describe what you know about the Jewish religious leaders who would have been in charge of the spiritual care for these people before Jesus came along.
• How might Roman oppression have affected the people? (Note the words harassed, confused, and helpless in different translations of vs. 36.)

Verse 36 says Jesus saw the crowds and had compassion on them.

- How does compassion differ from pity or obligation as a motivator?
• Why is it necessary for us to have compassion on those around us who need spiritual direction?
• In addition to teaching/preaching, what else did Jesus do?
o Discuss the connection between teaching spiritual truth and also meeting people’s physical needs.

Immediately after this, Jesus commissioned the 12 disciples to go out as ambassadors. Read Matthew 10:16–20, 37–42.

- What might have caused some to hesitate about becoming “harvest workers?”
• What assurance did Jesus give?

- Note that Jesus sent them not to sew but to reap a harvest from what he had already sown. Why is this significant?
• What role(s) do you think each of us has in the harvest?
o What would you say to someone who thinks the work is reserved for pastors?

NEXT STEPS

- Who is God calling you to share the good news with?
• What factors can make reaching out to “confused and helpless” people a daunting task?
o How can we overcome our hesitancy?
• What part does prayer play in the harvest? For the workers? For those who need help?
• In what ways does Jesus’s power over the harvest encourage us and embolden us to go out to the harvest?

PRAYER

In groups of 2–4, pray for one another and pray over harvest workers and for those who need Jesus.

Notes for praying for others this week:

Blank lines for writing prayer notes.