

# Help Wanted

## Opening

### Labor day

- Recognizes the achievements of labor
- Tempted to launch into a political discussion - but that's not my mission here
- I want to look at the need for labor, and make a call for you to join in the fight

### Text

- Familiar passage
- Want to look at it with a slightly different emphasis
- Take a Bible and read along with me [Matt 9:35-38](#) (ESV) (35) *And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. (36) When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for 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 laborers are few; (38) therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."*

## The need

### Greater than the workers

- Jesus has been preaching the Gospel and teaching.
- He went around healing every disease and affliction
- **Note:** This is part of the Gospel's proclamation - we need the manifest presence of the kingdom of God

### Time sensitive

- **Illustrate:** Grace's anniversary present. Ordered. Arrived almost immediately. Labeled *persihable* - threw me for a loop. M&Ms
- Harvest time is a season - it's almost on us here I believe
- Jesus is coming again!

## Resulting in people suffering

- See v36 - *He had compassion for them - they were harassed and helpless*
- Makes more sense in the context:
  - Opening of the chapter - restored a paralyzed man (and forgave his sins)
  - Called Matthew (another laborer)
  - Taught about the need for new wineskins!
  - Healed Jairus' daughter and the woman with the issue of blood
  - Healed two blind men
  - Healed a mute man
- Point - the spiritual oppression caused people to be suffering

## Summary

- He went and did, but the need was greater than one person!

## Our response

### Pray

- Our response is to pray
- Specifically for the Lord to send for laborers
- If we do this, we'll begin to cultivate a heart
- See *Isa 6:8* (ESV) (8) *And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."*
- See the prayer of the rich man from hell
- We should be praying for laborers in the lives of our loved ones, etc.

### Go

Jesus sending out the 12. Matthew begins chapter 10 - with Jesus sending out the 12. I take this to teach that we are called to go.

### Called

- Jesus selects 12 for the ministry
- See *Matt 10:1* (ESV) (1) *And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.*
- How cool to be chosen
- **Point:** We are chosen

## Empowered

- See also in v1 - he gave them power to drive out demons and heal the sick
- This ministry of evangelism is to include the supernatural
- We are here to drive back the enemy!
- In this last day - we need the power of the Holy Spirit!
- See their instruction in **Matt 10:8** (ESV) (8) *Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.*

## Focused

- As Jesus gives them instructions - he wants them to stay focused
- He tells them who to go to
- He tells them what to do, and what not to do
- **Point:** We've been sent to the whole world. We don't need to get involved in other things - just preach the Gospel message and do Gospel work!

## Application

- Slide: *What will you do about the harvest?*
- Can we see the need of the harvest?
- Do we have people we love who are not ready
- Will you pray
- Can we seek the empowerment of the Spirit?