

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Exodus 19:2-8a

Psalm 100

We are God's people & the sheep of God's pasture. (v3)

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35--10:8

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of compassion, you have opened the way for us & brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm & faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Matthew 9:35--10:8

³⁵Jesus went about all the cities & villages, teaching in their synagogues, & proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, & curing every disease & every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed & helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." ^{10:1}Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples & gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, & to cure every disease & every sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, & his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, & his brother John; ³Philip & Bartholomew; Thomas & Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, & Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean, & Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him ⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, & enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. [...]²²& you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.]

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. What connections do you find between *Exodus 19:2-8a* & *Matthew 9:35-10:8*? Consider esp. *Exodus 19:45-5* & *Matthew 9:36, 10:7*. Hint: look for themes, parallel ideas, inversions, reversals, similarities, extensions, metaphors, actions, vocabulary, grammar, etc.
2. St. Matthew records Jesus' harvest imagery in *9:37-38, 13:24-30, 36-43, 21:33-41*. What's the harvest? See *Revelation 14:1-20, esp. v15; Philippians 1:9-11* What do you need to do to make yourself ready for harvest as grain, not chaff?

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. The Bible is careful to record the names of people (cf. *10:1-4*). For what reason do you think that is? What about your name- does God have it recorded? Does he know you by your name? See *Matthew 10:20, 29-31, John 10:1-6, 22-30; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 3:5, 13:8, 17:8, 20:15*
4. A traditional healing prayer begins, "O God, the giver of health & salvation: As the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, at his command, anointed many that were sick & healed them..."¹ What is the benefit of such a remembrance in the prayer? See *James 5:14-16*

1. *Lutheran Book of Worship*. Augsburg Publishing House, 1978

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. How are your neighbors like "sheep without a shepherd" (cf. v36)? How can you & your congregation show them compassion & mercy? What needs can be met quickly for immediate neighbors in your community?
6. Following from #2, how & to whom are you verbally proclaiming the Good News (v6)? How are you laboring for the Lord's harvest? Does want the people in your everyday life to be saved?

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Third Sunday after Pentecost- Team Sunday

06.18.23

Series: Reality Check

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Reality of the Team

*Jesus teaches his team his playbook, sends them out to play,
& tells them he has more positions to fill.*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Then [Jesus] said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” (v37-38)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

The kingdom of God has come near;
repent, & believe in the good news. (*Mark 1:15*)

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