



# CHURCH *Multiplication* SUNDAY

## Go Get Help!

Matthew 9:35-38

### OUTLINE

The planting team is on the edge of safe. But there is no better place to be. You are endeavoring to bring the kingdom through the foolishness of gospel preaching in the power of the Spirit. Where the demands of this ministry are enough to unravel stout and godly people, there is peace provided for you and your team (John 14:27). Contrary to popular belief, the primary purpose of that peace is not about protecting you from emotional turmoil. No student of the gospels can believe that (Matthew 26:38,39; Mark 14:34; Luke 12:50; John 12:27). Rather, Jesus' peace does for you what it did for Him.

It steadies your hand so that you can persevere. His peace will not grant you an escape from emotional ups and downs; it will enable you to endure them while executing His will. It will not deliver you from the difficulty of dealing with dangerous people, your own darkness, or demonic forces; it will enable you to be deliberate in facing them. The peace He offers was His from His Father for the work of doing His Father's will. It is yours as you follow Him.

Church planter, I am praying for you. Pray for your team, your audience, your community, and make the message your own. May these notes help you help them.

In His grip by His grace for His glory,

Roderick L. Barnes, Sr.

- I. Introduction
- II. Going out with the Gospel (Matthew 4:23; 9:35)
- III. Getting Emotional (Matthew 9:36)
- IV. Getting Help (Matthew 9:37-38)



### INTRODUCTION

Planting a new local church, a new discipleship community, a new fellowship of faith is simultaneously exciting, emotionally distressing, and exhausting. Regarding the excitement, there is the rush that comes with stepping out in the power of the Spirit to live out our beliefs, and to live in the center of Jesus' will (Matthew 28:18-20), and the experience of being used by God to change the world. Regarding the emotional distress and exhaustion, church planting teams have the comfort of knowing that they are following the master's example. He has called us into what he has been doing Himself: (1) going out with the gospel among the people, (2) getting emotional with a view of the people problems, and then (3) getting and giving the help most needed.

## ALL THE WAY UP MATTHEW 4:23; 9:35

**Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.**

Prior to this point the upstart rabbi from Nazareth has been demonstrating the astounding nature of His anointing (Matthew 3:16-17; Luke 4:16-19). In the power of the Spirit, the carpenter's Son has taught with unprecedented authority (Luke 4:15; Matthew 5:1-7:28). In the power of the Spirit, the Son of Man (Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 8:20; 9:6) has pardoned and restored a paralytic (9:1-8), has called castaways to ministry (Matthew 9:9), has summoned those sick with sin to sup with the Savior (Matthew 9:10-13; Mark 4:13), has raised the dead (9:18-25), has given sight to the blind (9:27-31), and has exorcised evil spirits (8:28-34; 9:32-33).

In all of this Jesus' detractors, the Pharisees have deepened in their hostility toward Him. Notice that from 9:11 to 9:34 there is a clear decline in the warmth of their disposition toward the miracle worker. They have become more determined to denigrate His ministry, more decided in their decision to deride His work, and more outspoken in their opposition. Their address in 9:34 is not to Jesus but to the impressed crowds. In their public denunciation, they commit the unforgivable sin of blaspheming the Holy Spirit (12:31). How? By calling the outcasting of demons as an outworking of a Satanic alliance (9:34; 12:24). [But Jesus is not without his own curt words; in a sense, He unapologetically started the fight with his candid and cutting comment about the wretched righteousness of the Pharisees' (5:20).]

Verse 35 is Matthew's way of telling us that the earlier works (4:23) are ongoing. He is summarily saying that Jesus is not behind a desk making messages. He is not in an office strategizing for building programs.

*The planter and his team will find their peace in following the Master's example. In being with Him (Mark 3:14). Where is He? He is not just in His office haranguing over Hebrew verbs and going over Greek syntax diagrams. He has gone out with the gospel among the people.*

He was out among the people meeting needs when He started... *and He still is*. Jesus is *still* teaching in their synagogues, *still* preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and *still* healing every sickness and every disease among the people. In the words of a secular theologian and entertainer, "Nothing can stop Him; He's all the way up!" (4:23; 9:35). But... it is not enough.



## SEEING, SYMPATHY, AND SERVING MATTHEW 9:36; NUMBERS 27:17; 1 KINGS 22:17; 2 CHRONICLES 18:16; EZEKIEL 34:5; ZECHARIAH 10:2; MARK 6:34

**But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.**

In the midst of ongoing miracles, wonders without number (John 20:30), and powerful preaching that was bringing hope and relevant help to hurting people, Jesus **saw the multitudes** (9:36). Earlier it was seeing the multitudes (5:1) that moved Him to preach the principles and policies of His kingdom. Later Jesus will see the multitudes (14:14) and be **moved with compassion** to heal their sick. As Matthew would tell it, there is an inviolable sequence and consequence in the God man. Indeed, the tax collector is telling us something if we are willing to hear him: *the Savior sees the need and then serves the needy with what is needed most.*

The seeing, sympathy, and serving cannot be separated; they are bound together in a threefold cord that helps even when helping hurts (Hebrews 4:15; Isaiah 53:3-5). It is the nature of God, merciful and gracious, to react with compassion to the needs of His people. It is the outworking of His marvelous and perfect wisdom to always respond appropriately. Jesus, Son and image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3;), illustrates the principle perfectly (5:1; 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; 20:34). When Jesus sees that the people need teaching, He serves them with teaching (Matthew 5-7). When Jesus sees that the people need healing, He serves them with healing (Matthew 14:14). Between the seeing and the serving, Jesus sympathizes. Between the seeing and the serving,<sup>1</sup> there is a moving of His emotions that soon after become manifest in acts of mercy and gracious giving. He cannot do otherwise. And, if we are born of God, neither can we see brothers in need and not respond with relevant help:

**But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? (1 John 3:17, NKJV)**

It is a dead and rotting faith than can face the dire needs of those who bear God's image and do nothing.

**14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (James 2:14-17, NKJV)**

The people were **weary** and **scattered**. He could see the effects of being plundered, exploited, relentlessly punished by Satan, ruthless religious leaders, and their own sinners; they were flayed, mangled, and rent (**weary** - *έσκυλμένοι*). He could see that they were downcast, dejected, and without direction (**scattered** - *έρριμμένοι*). Matthew is a Jew writing to Jews about a Jew. What he says next is a Hebraism drawn from Old Testament writings (Numbers 27:17; 1 Kings 17:2; 2 Chronicles 18:16; Zechariah 10:2). **Sheep having no shepherd** is the author's way of describing the pitiful plight of the people in terms that Jewish readership would not miss. And Jesus is not insulated from all of this. He has made it his business to be in it.

*The planter and his team will find their peace in following the Master's example. In being with Him (Mark 3:14). Where is He? He is not removed from the mess of the multitudes. He stepped into the world of the people and is steeped in their problems. He is looking at their misery up close and getting emotional.*

Even with His anointing on full blast against the besetting issues facing the people... more is needed. They need shepherds. Nothing can stop Jesus because... He is all the way up. And a single person walking in the power of the Spirit was having a tremendous impact. But lasting change would require more servant leaders - *more shepherds*. The lack of loving leadership was the real need. Now, **moved with compassion**, Jesus shows his disciples how to deal with it. Listen carefully as the Savior, having seen the need, teaches on how to serve the needy with what is needed most.



## **GO GET HELP!**

**MATTHEW 9:37-38; LUKE 10:2; JOHN 4:35; EPHESIANS 4:11-12;  
2 THESSALONIANS 3:1; MATTHEW 28:19-20**

**Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."**

Jesus never loses sight of opportunities to teach, to explain, to exemplify, and to use a moment for maximum mentoring impact. What might have remained an internal thought was **said to His disciples**. He was always retreating

from the fray to plead with His Father for one thing or another (Luke 5:16); they knew that. But did they realize that he was stealing away to pray, and plead, and petition for more help? He was telling them that the most appropriate response to the growing crowd of needy people was praying.

Church planting will wear you out. The planter and his core team are often trying to reach a world and grow a fellowship based on the evangelism technique *du jour*, based on frantic attempts to follow-up the five or fifty people who visited last week, based on wild and wily attempts to make worship cool, based on false notions of needing to stream sermons or based on the build-it-and-they-will-come idea that a modern building with a coffee shop will do the trick. (Be original and call it *He-Brews*.) These ideas are largely dung! The Lord of the harvest is not sending his flock to be shaken down and shorn by programs that do not mentor people toward maturity. He is not sending constituents of core teams to get caught up in the egocentric and self-aggrandizing activities of self-serving seminarians.

Look at Jesus! He stands in the divide between the truly plentiful harvest and the help that is needed, in the chasm between the **weary** and **scattered sheep** and the shepherds so desperately needed. Standing in that gulf, He sees with God-man clarity that real success is more than sermon making; it is succession planning and securing people to tend the flock (John 21:16), to lovingly lead lambs (John 21:15), and to feed His sheep (John 21:17).

*The planter and his team will find their peace in following the Master's example. In being with Him (Mark 3:14). Where is He? He is not merely planning. He is retreating often to plead for help, to petition for help, to pray... for help.*

The breakthrough in building a fellowship is not in programs but in praying. In praying, we acknowledge that the people we are trying to reach are His; He is **the Lord of the harvest**. In praying, we acknowledge that talent alone will not tip the scales toward the founding of a great fellowship; where laborers are lacking the effort to gather will merely get people through the front door. Without more than a gifted pastor, they will realize that the leadership is laden with too much to serve them and make their way out the backdoor.

*The breakthrough in building a fellowship is found in breaking away from being busy for the business of getting help.*

Let the church planter and his church make their first and foremost work be importunate asking for help for going out into the harvest. Do not miss this! Jesus says, "Go get help". The planting pastor's first and foremost work is not the making of messages. Let him lead the way in getting help (Acts 1:14; 2:1, 46). Before he ever organizes planning meetings, let him organize meeting to get help - prayer meetings.

Can the church be helped by powerful preaching, worship that stirs, and procedures that promote good contacts with visitors? Certainly! But none of it matters if the Lord of the harvest is not at work sending laborers and for gathering his weary and scattered sheep. Apart from Him, we can do nothing; indeed, we make matters worse. The planters that have pressed in to get help have. They acknowledge that the need is for more than themselves and are found frequently going to get help (Luke 5:16). What should we pray for:



Pray for help seeing the need (Matthew 5:1; 9:36; 14:14).



Pray for help sympathizing with the needy (Matthew 9:36).



Pray for help to be sent (Matthew 9:37-38).

