

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. In what sense did Jesus mean that the people were without a shepherd?
2. Do we realize a great harvest today?
3. What are the requirements of a laborer?
4. What responsibility does Jesus give us concerning the sending of laborers into the harvest?

SUMMARY:

Jesus, upon seeing the multitudes, was moved with compassion because they had no one to lead them to the way of joy, strength, and life that He could give. Therefore, He called His disciples, and after giving them power, sent them to preach to the lost sheep of Israel.

What a true picture this paints today with so many in need of salvation and so few laborers for the Lord. What a responsibility we have to pray to the Lord that He sends laborers forth and that we be faithful in witnessing to the lost by our words and deeds. While the Lord does warn of dangers, He also promises: *“I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”* (Matthew 28:20)

NOTES:

[SoF:15] We believe that the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ is an invitation for everyone to live a life of abandonment to Him, Who loved us and gave Himself for us - surrendering His personal ambitions and possessions in an unreserved committal to take the proclamation of the Gospel throughout “all the world to every creature”..

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #4

January 23, 2022

First Quarter

THE MASTER’S COMMISSION [SoF:15]

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 9:35-38; 10:1-42

LESSON SETTING: Jesus ministers in the synagogues of Galilee. He instructs His disciples.

TIME: About 28 - 31 A.D.

- I. SENSING THE NEED.** Matthew 9:35-38
 - A. Without a Shepherd (vs. 36) Zechariah 10:2; Matthew 15:14
 - B. Plenteous Harvest—All Unbelievers (vs. 37) John 4:35; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4
 - C. Few Laborers (vs. 37) Matthew 7:13-14; 20:1, 16; Luke 10:2
- II. SELECTING THE WORKERS.** Matthew 10:1-4
 - A. Disciples Chosen as Laborers. Matthew 4:18-20; Mark 8:34-35
 - B. Called by the Lord. Acts 13:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:11
 - C. Power from the Lord. Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 12:9
- III. SENDING THE DISCIPLES.** Matthew 10:5-42
 - A. To Preach to the Lost (vs. 6-7) Mark 16:15
 - B. Faithfulness Required. Luke 9:62; 1 Corinthians 4:2
 - C. Warning of Danger (vs. 16-18) Acts 20:29-30; Ephesians 6:12
 - D. Promise of Strength. Jeremiah 1:6-8; Romans 15:18

GOLDEN TEXT: *I HEARD THE VOICE OF THE LORD, SAYING, WHOM SHALL I SEND, AND WHO WILL GO FOR US? THEN SAID I, HERE AM I: SEND ME.*
Isaiah 6:8

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Matthew 13:1-23

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Deuteronomy 6:1-25; Mark 4:1-20;
Luke 8:4-15

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ - King and Savior

TOPIC: THE MASTER'S TEACHING

INTRODUCTION:

The Master taught by parables. Parables are explaining the mysteries of God, the hidden things. The natural man cannot understand their meaning. Eyes they have, but see not. Ears they have, but hear not. Converted people are given the understanding of these mysteries. A believer has a key to understand. God gives it to him.

Christ's parables, His words, were the seeds sown. The gospel message was the seed during His time and is even until today. The seeds can only grow if the individual so wishes, if his attitude is such that he desires his heart to be prepared so that the seed can grow.

Any heart—whether the wayside, stony, or full of thistles—can be made mellow if it is permitted to thaw after being frozen, if the stones are cast out and the thistles pulled out. It all depends upon the person, whether he desires it so. If his attitude is such that his heart becomes mellow then the Master's teaching can take root.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Christ's command to proclaim the gospel requires a ready response on our part.

GOLDEN TEXT: *THESE WORDS, WHICH I COMMAND THEE THIS DAY, SHALL BE IN THINE HEART.*

Deuteronomy 6:6

When we consider this Golden Text, spoken to His people through Moses, God is revealed to us as "*the same yesterday, today and forever.*" To His people of the Old Covenant, as today, His desire was that they should obey His statutes and laws out of love and reverence, that they should treasure His Word in their hearts, and not merely as a stern law. His wish also was to bless them as obedient children in the Promised Land into which He would lead them.

Jesus, too, was concerned that his hearers would receive the gospel of the Kingdom into their hearts, as shown by this parable of the good seed, the Word of God. We are invited to accept His new law of love into our hearts, with far greater promises for help and grace in this life, toward a promised land to come afterward which will be forever. How blessed are we, if we can echo David's words, "*Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.*" (Psalm 119:11)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF Jan. 24 – 30

M. *The Parable Told. Matthew 13:1-9

T. *The Reason for the Parable. Matthew 13:10-17

W. *The Parable Explained. Matthew 13:18-23

T. Teaching God's Law. Deuteronomy 6:1-9

F. Remembering God's Goodness. Deuteronomy 6:10-15

S. Remembering God's Words. Deuteronomy 6:16-25

S. God's Law of Harvest. Galatians 6:2-10

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