



Sermon Discussion Guide

03.16.25 Message | Tyler Myers | Matthew 9:9-13 & 9:35-38

Key Scripture (ESV):

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

- Matthew 9:9-13

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. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

- Matthew 9:35-38

Message Highlights:

- The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few—our responsibility is to pray and go.
- Jesus calls us to follow him first before we can lead others.
- Compassion is the starting point of mission; Jesus saw the people and had compassion.
- The religious leaders focused on rules, but Jesus focused on redemption.
- Following Jesus is an internal transformation that leads to external obedience.

Conversation Starter:

Have you ever been given an opportunity you didn't feel qualified for? How did you respond, and what did you learn from it?

Discuss the Message:

1. Tyler said during the sermon, "The harvest is ready, but God's people have to step up." What holds people back from stepping into the work of the harvest?
 2. Tyler mentioned that compassion should drive our mission. How does Jesus' example of compassion challenge the way we see people in need around us?
 3. Tyler talked about Jesus calling Matthew, a tax collector, to follow him. Why do you think Jesus often chooses the unexpected?
 4. Tyler said, "Religion without relationship misses the point." How does this statement shape the way we live out our faith?
 5. Tyler emphasized that our mission is to "pray and go." What does it look like for you to be both prayerful and active in God's mission?
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Think Deeper (Understanding the Passage):

1. Why do you think Jesus chose to eat with tax collectors and sinners despite the criticism? (*Matthew 9:10-11*)
 2. What does it mean when Jesus says, "I desire mercy, and not sacrifice"? (*Matthew 9:13*)
 3. How does the imagery of sheep without a shepherd help us understand the spiritual need around us? (*Matthew 9:36*)
 4. Jesus commands us to pray for workers to be sent into the harvest. Why is prayer a critical part of the mission? (*Matthew 9:38*)
 5. What is the significance of Jesus saying, "Follow me," to Matthew, and how does that relate to us today? (*Matthew 9:9*)
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Think Life Change (Personal Implications):

1. How would you say the call to "follow me" is reflected in your life currently? What are some steps you might be challenged to take as a result of the message?
2. What obstacles keep you from seeing and responding to the needs around you with compassion?

3. For a moment, refer to the calling of Matthew and consider how Jesus approached him and called him into a life of ministry. If Jesus called you in the same way he called Matthew, how would you respond?
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Think Engage (Making a Difference):

1. Take note: Who in your life is spiritually searching, and how can you invite them to know Jesus?
 2. What practical ways can you demonstrate the life-changing ways of Jesus in your workplace or community?
 3. Consider: What would change if you saw your daily interactions as part of God's harvest work?
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Think Kingdom (Bigger Perspective):

1. Consider scripture's description of "the harvest" and Tyler's key thoughts on the subject. How does the concept of "the harvest" expand our understanding of God's mission?
2. What would it look like if every believer embraced their responsibility in the harvest? How would that change the world?