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The King and His Glory / Salvation; Jesus / Matthew 9:33–35

In Matthew 9:35–10:1, Matthew moves from Jesus's works to His workers, revealing three marks of faithful ministry that His workers must embody:

Pre-sermon Comments

> Preach the word and deal with the consequences! - Don Green
>
> A painless ministry is a shallow and fruitless ministry. ~ Charles Spurgeon

Introduction to our Text

Matthew 28:19–20 LSB
19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to keep all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

> "We must have the heathen converted… we must go and search for them… ~ Charles Spurgeon
>
> Carey came on the scene during a period of evangelical lethargy. Paralyzed by hyper-Calvinism and a general apathy towards the lost, most churches in England believed that if God wanted to save sinners, he did not need the participation of men. ~ Brad Klassen

Proposition and Outline

In Matthew 9:35–10:1, Matthew moves from Jesus's works to His workers, revealing three marks of faithful ministry that His workers must embody:

- Faithful Ministry is Complete (Matthew 9:35)

    - Jesus Traveled
    - Jesus Taught
    - Jesus Preached
    - Jesus Demonstrated Power
- Faithful Ministry is Compassionate (Matthew 9:36)
    - Jesus Had the Right Perspective
    - Jesus had the Right Heart
    - Jesus Chose the Right People
- Faithful Ministry is Crucial (Matthew 9:37-38) [Next Week]
- Faithful Ministry is Collaborative (Matthew 10:1 [Next Week]

Sermon Text

Matthew 9:35–10:1 LSB
And Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

And seeing the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd.

Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

"Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

And summoning His twelve disciples, *Jesus* gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

Review

Discussion Questions

What stood out to you from the sermon introduction about William Carey and his faithfulness in ministry?

How does Carey's example challenge your understanding of what it means to live faithfully in service to Christ?

Pastor Brandon reminded us that Grace Bible Church exists "to exalt God by expositing His Word, equipping the saints, and evangelizing the lost."

How does each of these four pillars—exaltation, exposition, equipping, and evangelism—work together to produce a healthy church?

What does Don Green's quote, "Preach the Word and deal with the consequences," mean for us as individuals and as a church body?

Carey began with only thirteen pounds but had great confidence in God. How does this encourage you to trust God when your own resources seem small?

Carey's motto was "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." What might that look like in your life today?

How can we "attempt great things for God" in our workplace, home, or church ministries?

Carey's ministry was described as complete, compassionate, and crucial.

Which of these qualities do you think is most lacking in the modern church?

Which do you most need to grow in personally?

What does Matthew 9:35 teach us about the completeness of Jesus's ministry?

How does Jesus's example of traveling, teaching, preaching, and healing inform how we think about ministry today?

Pray that our church would reflect Christ's faithful ministry in all areas: exalting God, expositing His Word, and equipping His people.

Faithful Ministry is Complete (Matthew 9:35)

Jesus Traveled

Matthew 9:35 LSB
35 And Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

Moreover, the cities lie here very thick, and the very many villages there are here are everywhere so full of people, by the richness of their soil, that the very least of them contains above fifteen thousand inhabitants. ~ Josephus

Matthew 8:24 LSB
24 And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was sleeping.

Hebrews 4:15 LSB
15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things like *we are, yet* without sin.

Philippians 2:7 LSB
7 but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a slave, by being made in the likeness of men.

> "There is more to the ministry than being able to talk." ~ A.W. Tozer

Proverbs 6:6–8 LSB
6 Go to the ant, O sluggard, Observe her ways and be wise, 7 Which, having no chief, Officer or ruler, 8 Prepares her food in the summer *And* gathers her provision in the harvest.

Jesus Taught

Matthew 9:35 LSB

35 And Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

Nehemiah 8:8 LSB
8 They read from the book, from the law of God, explaining and giving insight, and they provided understanding of the reading.

Luke 4:15 LSB
15 And He was teaching in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

Acts 13:5 LSB
5 And when they reached Salamis, they *began to* proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews, and they also had John as their helper.

Acts 17:11 LSB
11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily *to see* whether these things were so.

Jesus Preached

Matthew 9:35 LSB
35 And Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

Matthew 9:35 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.

Luke 4:21 LSB
21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

In preaching the gospel of the kingdom, Jesus was not expounding the Old Testament, as He did when teaching in the synagogues, but He was proclaiming the New Testament, the New Covenant which He would seal with

His own blood (Matt. 26:28). He was unfolding the mysteries that were mentioned but not explained in the Old Testament, hidden even from the most faithful believers of previous times. He was thus giving new revelation about God's plan of redemption. ~ John MacArthur

Christ is the King, the Lord, of every believer. He rules our lives, supplies our needs, guarantees our salvation, and in every way is sovereign over us. The kingdom is the rule and reign of Christ—now in and over His saints on earth, eventually over all the earth during the Millennium, and ultimately and eternally over the new heavens and the new earth. ~ John MacArthur

Matthew 28:19–20 LSB
19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to keep all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Jesus Demonstrated Power

Matthew 9:35 LSB
35 And Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

> When our Lord came down to earth, He drew heaven with Him. The signs which accompanied His ministry were but the trailing clouds of glory which He brought from heaven, which is His home. The number of the miracles which He wrought may easily be underrated. It has been said that in effect, He banished disease and death from Palestine for the three years of His ministry. If this is an exaggeration, it is a pardonable exaggeration. (Carlisle, Pa.: Banner of Truth, [1918] 1983, p. 3).
>
> We impoverish God's ministry the moment we forget He is Almighty…~ Oswald Chambers

Luke 7:22 LSB
22 And He answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: *the* BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT, *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are cleansed,

and *the* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised up, *the* POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.

Ephesians 2:20 LSB
20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*,

James 5:14–15 LSB
14 Is anyone among you sick? *Then* he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.
15 And the prayer offered in faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

Romans 8:28 LSB
28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to *His* purpose.

Discussion Questions

Matthew 9:35 says Jesus went "through all the cities and villages." What does this tell us about His approach to ministry?

Josephus estimated that Galilee had hundreds of towns and millions of people. What does that context reveal about the scope and effort of Jesus's ministry?

Jesus worked Himself to exhaustion in obedience to the Father. How does that contrast with the temptation toward comfort or laziness that we often have to battle?

Proverbs 6:6–8 urges us to learn from the ant's diligence. What practical steps can help us cultivate diligence in ministry, family, or personal disciplines?

What would it look like for you to "go to bed tired" from faithful labor in serving Christ and others?

Why was the synagogue such an important setting for Jesus's teaching ministry? What can the central role of Scripture in synagogue life teach the church today?

Nehemiah 8:8 describes how Ezra read and explained the Law so people could understand. How does this verse reinforce the importance of expository teaching in our day?

In what ways are you currently "teaching" others — whether children, family, coworkers, or friends? How can you be more intentional in pointing them toward Christ through your words and actions?

What makes teaching God's Word challenging in our culture, and how can we remain faithful despite that?

Pastor Brandon distinguished between teaching (explaining Scripture) and preaching (publicly proclaiming the gospel).
Why are both vital for the health of the church?

John MacArthur wrote that Jesus was "unfolding the mysteries… hidden even from the most faithful believers of previous times. How does this help us appreciate the uniqueness and power of the gospel message?

Jesus's preaching revealed that He Himself is the good news. How does that truth shape your understanding of evangelism? Are you more comfortable explaining facts about Jesus, or declaring your faith in Him personally?

Matthew 28:19–20 commands us to make disciples and teach them. How does that connect to Jesus's model of complete ministry in Matthew 9:35?

B. B. Warfield said that Jesus "drew heaven with Him" and that His miracles were "the trailing clouds of glory."
How does that imagery deepen your awe of Christ's earthly ministry?

Why were miracles essential to confirming Jesus's identity and the truth of His message?

The apostles were later given power to perform miracles to validate their ministry as the foundation of the church (Ephesians 2:20). What does that teach us about God's purpose for miracles in redemptive history?

How does James 5:14–15 remind us that God still acts powerfully through prayer today? How can our group grow in faith-filled prayer for those who are suffering or sick?

How can our church avoid the extremes of "busyness without purpose" on one hand, and "passivity in comfort" on the other?

What area of Jesus's example (traveling, teaching, preaching, demonstrating compassion or power) challenges you most personally? Why?

As Pastor Brandon said, "Faithfulness in ministry is not merely about activity or accomplishment, but affection—the heart behind the labor." What does that mean for your service this week?

Faithful Ministry is Compassionate (Matthew 9:36)

Jesus Had the Right Perspective

Matthew 9:36 LSB
36 And seeing the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd.

> Every Christian has a call to some kind of ministry…

Jesus Had the Right Heart

Matthew 9:36 LSB
36 And seeing the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd.

He Felt Compassion in His Gut

Acts 1:18 LSB
18 (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his unrighteousness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out.

Proverbs 16:23 LSB
23 The heart of the wise gives insight to his mouth And increases learning to his lips.

His Humanity vs. Deity

Numbers 23:19 LSB
19 "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should
repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not
establish it?

John 11:33–35 LSB
33 When Jesus therefore saw her crying, and the Jews who came with her *also*
crying, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled, 34 and said, "Where
have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus wept.

John 2:14–17 LSB
14 And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and
doves, and the money changers seated *at their tables*. 15 And He made a
scourge of cords, and drove *them* all out of the temple, with the sheep and the
oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned
their tables; 16 and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these
things away; stop making My Father's house a place of business." 17 His
disciples remembered that it was written, "ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME
ME."

Matthew 8:17 LSB
17 in order to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet, saying, "HE
HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND CARRIED AWAY OUR DISEASES."

John 11:33–35 LSB
33 When Jesus therefore saw her crying, and the Jews who came with her *also*
crying, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled, 34 and said, "Where
have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus wept.

John 19:26–27 LSB
26 When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing
nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" 27 Then He said to
the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour the disciple took her into
his *home*.

Luke 19:41 LSB

41 And as He approached *Jerusalem* and saw the city, He cried over it,

Jesus Chose the Right People

Jesus Felt Compassion for the Downtrodden

Matthew 9:36 LSB
36 And seeing the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 9:36 ESV
36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Numbers 27:15–17 LSB
15 Then Moses spoke to Yahweh, saying, 16 "May Yahweh, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation, 17 who will go out and come in before them, and who will lead them out and bring them in, so that the congregation of Yahweh will not be like sheep which have no shepherd."

Sheep are Defenseless

Psalm 23:1–2 LSB
1 Yahweh is my shepherd, I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.

Matthew 15:24 LSB
24 But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Ezekiel 34:3–8 LSB
3 "You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you sacrifice the fat *sheep* without shepherding the flock. 4 "Those who are sickly you have not strengthened, and the diseased you have not healed, and the broken you have not bound up, and the scattered you have not brought back, nor have you searched for the lost; but with strength and with severity you have dominated them. 5 "They were scattered for lack of a shepherd, and they became food for every beast of the field and were scattered. 6 "My flock wandered through all the mountains and on every high hill; My flock was scattered over all the

surface of the earth, and there was no one to seek or search *for them*." ' " 7
Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of Yahweh: 8 "As I live," declares Lord
Yahweh, "surely because My flock has become plunder, My flock has even
become food for all the beasts of the field for lack of a shepherd, and My
shepherds did not seek for My flock, but *rather* the shepherds shepherded
themselves and did not shepherd My flock;

Ezekiel 34:9–11 LSB
9 therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of Yahweh: 10 'Thus says Lord
Yahweh, "Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will seek My flock from
their hand and make them cease from shepherding the flock. So the shepherds
will not shepherd themselves anymore, but I will deliver My flock from their
mouth so that they will not be food for them." ' " 11 For thus says Lord Yahweh,
"Behold, I Myself will seek My sheep and care for them.

Conclusion:

> "The true [faithful] ministry is God-touched, God-enabled, and God-made. ~ E.M. Bounds

The Gospel

God

Created and owns everything

Gen 1:1—In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth

Psalm 24:1—The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it.

Is Perfectly Holy

1 John 1:5—This is the message we heard from Him and announce to you that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.

Matt 5:48—Therefore you are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Requires perfect obedience to His Law

James 2:10—for whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

Man

Has broken God's law

Rom 3:10,23—there is none righteous, not even one…for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Will pay the eternal penalty for his sin

Rom. 6:23—For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

Cannot save himself by his good works

Titus 3:5—He saved us not based on works which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

Christ

Came to earth both as God and sinless man

Col 2:9—For in Him the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form

Demonstrated God's love by dying on the cross to pay sin's penalty

Rom 5:8—But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us

2 Cor 5:21—He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Rose from the grave and is alive today

1 Cor 15:4—And that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

Sinners

Must repent of all that dishonors God

Isa 55:7—Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

Luke 9:23—if anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take us his cross daily and follow Me.

Must believe in Christ as Lord and Savior

Rom 10:9—that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.

Will you repent and believe in Christ?

Acts 17:30—therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance God is declaring to men that all everywhere should repent.

Don't hesitate to contact Pastor Brandon or Pastor Keith if you have any questions about this sermon or if you would like to know how to follow Christ.

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Quotes

> A prayerless ministry is the undertaker for all God's truth and for God's church. He may have the most costly casket and the most beautiful flowers, but it is a funeral, notwithstanding the charmful array. ~ **Edward McKendree Bounds (American Methodist Episcopal Minister)**
>
> This ministry 'is described in verbs, not nouns: Tend, feed, not Be a pastor, hold the office of pastor. And the sheep are Christ's sheep, not Peter's. Not, Tend your flock, but Tend my sheep' ~ **D. A. Carson**
>
> There is more to the ministry than being able to talk. ~ **A. W. Tozer**
>
> What I receive for my ministry is not a tenth of what I could readily earn in an engagement infinitely less laborious and harassing than my present

position; although, be it added, I would not leave my ministry for ten thousand worlds. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

I wish that our ministry—and mine especially—might he tied and tethered to the cross. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

The pillars on which our ministry rests are, under God, the prayers of our people. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

All the hope of our ministry lies in the Spirit of God operating on the spirits of men. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Prayer is one of the necessary wheels of the machinery of providence. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Every man who is divinely called to the ministry is divinely equipped. ~ **Arthur Walkington Pink**

Without extended, concentrated prayer, the ministry of the Word withers. And when the ministry of the Word declines, faith (Rom. 10:17; Gal. 3:2, 5) and holiness (John 17:17) decline. Activity may continue, but life and power and fruitfulness fade away. Therefore, whatever opposes prayer opposes the whole work of ministry. ~ **John Piper**

It has come to be a dreadfully common belief in the Christian Church that the only man who has a "call" is the man who devotes all his time to what is called "the ministry," whereas all Christian service is ministry, and every Christian has a call to some kind of ministry or another. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

The goal of the ministry is the maturity of the saints. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

Every preacher who does not make prayer a mighty factor in his own life and ministry is weak as a factor in God's work and is powerless to project God's cause in this world. ~ **Edward McKendree Bounds (American Methodist Episcopal Minister)**

We must have the heathen converted; God has myriads of His elect among them, we must go and search for them somehow or other. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

> Zeal in the ministry is as proper as fire on the altar. ~ **Thomas Watson**
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> What is significant is that Jesus expands the ministry beyond the Twelve. Ministry is not confined to a select few. ~ **Darrell L. Bock**
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> A Christian who has lost the joy of the ministry does not have bad circumstances, but bad connections. You do not lose the joy of serving Christ unless your communion with Him breaks down. ~ **John F. MacArthur**
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> The mission of the church is not to change society—although that is often a beneficial byproduct of faithful ministry and living—but to worship and serve the Lord and to bring others to saving faith in Him. ~ **John F. MacArthur**
>
> There is no such thing as a faithful ministry that is not costly. A painless ministry is a shallow and fruitless ministry. ~ **John F. MacArthur**
>
> I know of nothing which I would choose to have as the subject of my ambition for life than to be kept faithful to my God till death, still to be a soul winner, still to be a true herald of the cross, and testify the name of Jesus to the last hour. It is only such who in the ministry shall be saved. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**
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> We impoverish God's ministry to us the moment we forget he is Almighty; the impoverishment is in us, not in him. ~ **Oswald Chambers (Lecturer and Missionary)**
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> The faithful pastor is an awful weapon in the hands of God. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**
>
> Timothy is to find his resources for ministry not in his own nature but in Christ's grace. It is not only for salvation that we are dependent on grace (1:9), but for service also. ~ **John Robert Walmsley Stott (English Preacher)**

Faithful Ministry is Crucial (Matthew 9:37-38)

Matthew 9:37–38 LSB

37 Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are
few. 38 “Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out
workers into His harvest.”

There is a need (harvest is plentiful)

There is a problem (workers are few)

There is a solution (pray for the Lord of the harvest)

There is an eventual outcome (you may be the answer to your own prayer!)

Faithful Ministry is Collaborative

Matthew 10:1 LSB
1 And summoning His twelve disciples, *Jesus* gave them authority over unclean
spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of
sickness.