

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 137. The workers are few



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** Matthew 9:35-38

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and illness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'

**LOOKING FURTHER:** Luke 10:1-2; John 4:34-38; John 10:11-18; Psalm 23

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

In our passage, much of Jesus' mission is made clear – He taught, He preached and He healed – but perhaps even more importantly, He had compassion. In this story His compassion was for the crowds "because they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd".

Do you ever feel overwhelmed by the bad stuff in the world, longing for it to go away and peace to fill your soul? I know I do. I want to see more people come to know the peace that Jesus can bring but the task sometimes seems too big.

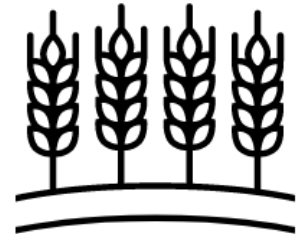
There used to be a notice in my Chaplaincy office which said something like – 'Don't feel you have to do absolutely everything. That is my job. God'.

Jesus tells us to ask God to send more workers. The more of us who do His work in the world, the more people will come to know Him and love Him and experience the peace that He can bring whatever our circumstances are. The more that we know that God is in control, the less we will feel harassed and helpless and we will come to understand that we have a shepherd in Jesus who will help us. Let us ask God to send workers into the field to bring God's compassion and peace to others.

### Reflections:

- Remember that Jesus is compassionate. How might you show His compassion to others?
- If you sometimes feel that it's not worth trying to follow Jesus because the task is too big, ask God to send more people to encourage you and work alongside you.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

