



5 Daily Devotionals (From August 30th Sermon)

Day 1: A Burden for the Lost

Key Verse:

“Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” — Matthew 9:38

Reflection

Jesus looked at the crowds and saw something others often missed. He saw people who were “harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” They needed more than temporary relief. They needed a Savior.

That same compassion should shape the way we see the people around us. Family members, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and even strangers are people for whom Christ died. It can be easy to become so distracted by the demands of everyday life that we forget the eternal needs of those around us.

Jesus first tells His disciples to **pray**. The mission begins not with our ability, eloquence, or courage, but with God. He is the Lord of the harvest. He prepares hearts, calls workers, and brings people to faith through His Word.

Ask God today to give you a greater love for the people He has placed around you. Pray specifically for someone who does not know Christ. Then be willing to become part of the answer to that prayer.

The Gospel is too precious to keep to ourselves.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, give me Your compassion for those who do not yet know You. Open my eyes to the people around me and make me willing to pray, speak, invite, and love. Use me as You see fit to bring Your saving message to others. Amen.

Day 2: Know the Word

Key Verse:

“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.” — John 17:17

Reflection

Jesus sent His disciples out with a message, but that message was not something they invented. They proclaimed what God had already revealed. The Old Testament pointed forward to the Messiah, and the disciples proclaimed that Jesus was the One God had promised.

That gives us an important reminder: **we need to know God’s Word.**

The world is filled with competing voices. Teachers, influencers, politicians, friends, and even religious leaders may tell us what they believe is true. But Christians are not called to measure Scripture by the opinions of the world. We measure what we hear against Scripture.

The sermon reminds us that Scripture should testify to Scripture. Knowing God’s Word helps us recognize truth and reject deception.

This is why regular time in Scripture matters. Read it. Study it. Hear it preached. Talk about it with other Christians. Let God’s Word shape your understanding of who He is and what He has done.

You do not need to become a Bible scholar overnight. But you can begin today.

Application

Spend 15 minutes today reading one chapter of the Bible. Ask: **What does this teach me about God, and what does it teach me about my need for Christ?**

Prayer

Father, give me a hunger for Your Word. Help me know Your truth so well that I can recognize what is false. Keep me grounded in Your promises and centered on Jesus. Amen.

Day 3: Trust the One Who Provides

Key Verse:

"You received without paying; give without pay." — Matthew 10:8

Reflection

When Jesus sent the twelve disciples into the towns of Galilee, He gave them an unusual command: travel without the normal supplies they would expect to need. No extra money. No bag. No backup plan.

Jesus was teaching them something deeper than how to pack for a journey.

He was teaching them **trust**.

The disciples had to trust that God would provide what they needed. And God would often provide through the generosity and hospitality of other people. The Lord of the harvest was not only preparing the hearts of those who would hear the Gospel; He was also preparing people to support those who carried the message.

We often live differently. We like backup plans, financial security, extra supplies, and control over our circumstances. Planning is not wrong, but our plans can quietly become the place where we put our confidence.

Jesus reminds us that our ultimate security is not found in what we carry with us. It is found in Him.

The Gospel itself is also free. We receive Christ's forgiveness not because we earned it, but because He gives it to us by grace.

The disciples were sent out trusting God to provide for the mission.

Application

Identify one area where you are tempted to rely more on your own control than on God. Surrender it to Him today.

Prayer

Lord, You know everything I need before I ask. Forgive me for the ways I trust my own plans more than Your promises. Teach me to trust You, provide for me according to Your wisdom, and use what You have given me for Your kingdom. Amen.

Day 4: Carry the Peace of Christ

Key Verse:

"Let your peace come upon it." — Matthew 10:13

Reflection

Jesus told His disciples that when they entered a home where the Gospel was received, they were to bring peace.

This was more than simply saying, "Peace be with you."

The peace Jesus gives is deeper than a peaceful afternoon or a trouble-free life. It is the peace of knowing that your sins are forgiven. It is the freedom of knowing that your past no longer defines you. It is the hope of eternal life. It is the confidence that Christ is with you even when circumstances are difficult.

The world often defines peace as the absence of problems. Jesus gives something better: **peace in the middle of problems.**

That means Christians carry something precious into the lives of others. When a friend is overwhelmed, we can point them to Christ. When someone is burdened by guilt, we can remind them of forgiveness. When someone is afraid of the future, we can point them toward the promises of God.

We don't manufacture this peace. Christ gives it.

The disciples were sent to announce that the kingdom of heaven had arrived in Jesus, bringing forgiveness, hope, and peace.

Application

Think of one person who needs the peace of Christ today. Pray for them, then look for a simple opportunity to encourage them with the hope you have in Jesus.

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for giving me peace that the world cannot give. Help me carry Your peace into the lives of others. Make me a person who points people toward Your forgiveness, hope, and love. Amen.

Day 5: Faithful in the Hard Places

Key Verse:

“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.” — Matthew 10:16

Reflection

Jesus never promised His disciples that following Him would always be easy. In fact, He warned them that persecution would come.

That warning is important because Christianity is not a promise of a comfortable life. Jesus Himself was rejected and crucified. His disciples would experience opposition, suffering, and persecution as they carried His message into the world.

Yet Jesus did not simply warn them. He **promised to be with them**.

He told them not to be anxious about what they would say when they were brought before authorities. God would give them what they needed. The mission ultimately did not depend upon their perfect words or their own strength. God would work through them.

That is still our confidence. We may not know what tomorrow will bring. We may face rejection, ridicule, disappointment, suffering, or circumstances we never expected. But none of those things can separate us from Christ.

Our ultimate hope is not that everything will go well here. Our hope is Jesus—and the eternal life He has won for us.

The sermon closes with this encouragement: Christ will never leave or forsake His people, and He will strengthen them even in difficult times.

Application

Whatever difficulty you are facing today, pray: **“Jesus, help me remain faithful and use even this circumstance as a testimony to You.”**

Prayer

Lord Jesus, keep me faithful when following You is difficult. Give me courage without arrogance, wisdom without fear, and gentleness without compromise. Remind me that You are with me every step of the way and that my eternal future is secure in You. Amen.

SENT INTO THE HARVEST

Small Group Discussion Guide — Matthew 10:1–39

Opening Question

Who was someone who cared enough about you to tell you something you really needed to hear—even when it was difficult to hear? What made their words meaningful?

The Big Idea

Jesus looks at people who are lost and vulnerable with compassion. He sends His disciples into the harvest with the good news of His kingdom—not because they are powerful or persuasive, but because **He is the Lord of the harvest**.

Jesus tells His disciples to expect both **opportunities and opposition**. Following Him does not guarantee an easy life, but it does guarantee His presence, His provision, and ultimately eternal life.

“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.”

— Matthew 10:16

1. SEE PEOPLE WITH JESUS’ COMPASSION

Jesus saw the crowds as **“harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd”** (Matthew 9:36). His response was compassion.

The people around us are not merely coworkers, neighbors, relatives, or strangers. They are people who need Christ. The Gospel is not simply good advice for making this life better—it is the good news that sinners are reconciled to God through Jesus Christ.

Supporting Scriptures:

- Matthew 9:36–38
- John 3:16–17
- 1 Timothy 2:3–4
- Romans 10:13–15

Discuss:

- Who are some people God has placed in your life who may need to hear about Jesus?

- What tends to distract us from seeing people the way Jesus sees them?
 - How can compassion—not guilt—motivate us to speak about Christ?
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2. TRUST THE LORD OF THE HARVEST

Jesus told His disciples to pray for workers and then sent them out as an answer to that prayer (Matthew 9:38–10:1).

The mission ultimately belongs to **God**. He prepares hearts, provides opportunities, gives strength, and works through His Word. We are called to be faithful witnesses; God gives the growth.

Supporting Scriptures:

- Matthew 9:37–38
- 1 Corinthians 3:6–7
- Isaiah 55:10–11
- Romans 1:16

Discuss:

- Why is it freeing to remember that the results of evangelism are ultimately in God's hands?
 - What fears keep us from talking about Jesus?
 - Where might God be giving you an opportunity to be a faithful witness?
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3. EXPECT OPPOSITION—BUT DON'T FEAR

Jesus does not promise His disciples that everyone will welcome the Gospel. He warns them about rejection, persecution, and even division within families.

Yet He also promises His presence and reminds them that they do not need to manufacture the perfect words. When they stand before authorities, they can trust God to sustain them.

“Do not be anxious about how or what you are to say.”

— Matthew 10:19

Faithfulness does not mean deliberately seeking conflict. Jesus tells His disciples to be **wise and innocent**. Sometimes the faithful response is to speak; sometimes it is to leave and continue the mission elsewhere.

Supporting Scriptures:

- Matthew 10:16–23
- Matthew 10:26–31
- 1 Peter 3:15–16
- John 15:18–20

Discuss:

- What kind of opposition or rejection do Christians commonly fear today?
 - How can we be both courageous and gracious when discussing our faith?
 - What does it look like to trust Jesus when following Him becomes costly?
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APPLICATION

This week, pray for three people who need Jesus. Ask God to give you compassion for them, an opportunity to serve them, and—when appropriate—the courage to speak about Christ.

Remember: **Jesus does not send us alone. He is the Lord of the harvest, and our hope is not ultimately in our ability to witness but in His power to save.**

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus,

thank You for having compassion on us when we were lost and helpless. Thank You for coming into this world to save sinners and for giving us forgiveness, peace, and the hope of eternal life through Your death and resurrection. Give us Your compassion for the people around us. Help us see them as You see them and faithfully share the good news of Christ. When we are afraid or face rejection, give us courage, wisdom, and gentleness. Remind us that the harvest belongs to You and that You are always with us. Keep us faithful to You until the day You bring us home.

Amen.