



9/1/2024 | David Liauw

**WARM UP QUESTION:** If you were to build a team to work together on a project, would you only select people who think the same way you do to work on your team?

**READ:** Matthew 9:35-10:4

**FOCUS:** Jesus unites diverse people into His community, on His mission and with His compassion.

**OBSERVE:**

- We don't choose who is in this community; Jesus does. It's His community, and He selects its members. The twelve disciples were chosen by Jesus, not by themselves. Jesus brings together diverse people.
- What unites them is their shared calling from Jesus to be His disciples. They are united by their allegiance to Him. While we may have our own preferences for defining Jesus' community, it is ultimately His choice. Being part of it means being with people we might not have chosen ourselves.
- In Matthew 10, Jesus gave the disciples very clear instructions and called them to a specific mission. A common mission unites people. Recognizing the significance of this mission helps minimize smaller differences and focus on the greater goal. Division arises when other goals or movements are prioritized over the primary mission.
- Jesus desires that all people have a shepherd (1 Peter 2:25). We cannot choose our shepherd; Jesus transforms us and claims us as His own. The people around us are not our enemies—they are God's sheep. We should be motivated to show compassion towards them.

**REFLECT:** What is your current life's mission or agenda?

**TAKE ACTION:** Proclaim the Gospel - the harvest is ripe, but the laborers are few (Matthew 9:37). Declare "The Kingdom of God is at hand (Matthew 3:2)." No other kingdom is more important than God's Kingdom. As a follower of Christ, we should be vocal about the Kingdom of Heaven as opposed to our own kingdom or someone else's.

**PRAY:** *Holy Father, we ask that You unite us in our mission to love one another, make disciples, and support each other's spiritual growth. Fill us with compassion and mercy, reflecting Your own. Please send laborers into Your harvest, and grant us the willingness and strength to be those laborers ourselves. Amen.*