

# Harvest

## Part 1, Matthew 9:35-38

### **Matthew 9:35-38: The workers are few**

<sup>35</sup> 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.

<sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'

1. Discuss in what ways the process of growing wheat; preparing the soil, planting, cultivating, harvesting and processing the grain – is analogous to the Christian mission?
2. Quote: *"There are two kinds of people in the world, those who have given their life to a great purpose and are constantly energised by the fullness of it and those who have not given their life to a great purpose and from time to time feel the emptiness of it"*. Is this true? What part does purpose play in your life?
3. Read Matthew 9:35-38, how many words of purpose can you find in this text? What challenges are there in this text for the way we live our Christian lives?
4. How can we become more sensitive to the needs of others? What practical things can we do to grow in this way?
5. How do we show compassion to people without insulting them? What guidelines apply here?
6. Often people seem to be fairly "together." How can we share the hope that is in us (1 Peter 3:15) with people who don't seem to sense their need for it?
7. Quote: *"We began this message with a story about a community that lost its purpose and lost its way. It was a true story, there are any number of empty churches that bear witness to this truth. The other side of this truth we read in Matthew 9, that when the church lives and breathes its purpose, it is an unstoppable force."*  
How can we contribute to the church "remembering" its purpose?