

# Why should we send?

**Matthew 9:35-38**

Slides from John Percival's sermon at the morning service  
Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025



1. What is the need? (v35-36)

## Matthew 9v36

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

“Gallopig secularisation has left many feeling isolated and purposeless. Rates of depression and other forms of psychological distress have rocketed, particularly among the young.”

Melanie Phillips



“Secular ideologies that have taken the place of religious belief – moral relativism, environmentalism, multiculturalism, anti-capitalism, and so on – are all a way of trying to find purpose in life. Since such forms of redemption focus on the worst in people, and are never sufficient to earn absolution from unforgiving ideologues, they leave people feeling powerless, resentful and abandoned. More fundamentally still, a culture built upon the veneration of individualism and the granting of “rights” builds in a never-ending spiral of unrealisable demands, a process that creates unhappiness and social division.”

**Melanie Phillips**



## Numbers 27v16-17

<sup>16</sup> “May the LORD, the God who gives breath to all living things, appoint someone over this community <sup>17</sup> to go out and come in before them, one who will lead them out and bring them in, so the LORD’S people will not be like sheep without a shepherd.”

## Trumpington (2021 Census)

- Between 2011 and 2021 Trumpington jumped in population from 4,429 to 12,393
- In 2021 about 6,000 people (around 50%) were in their 20s, 30s and 40s
- In 2021, about 5,000 people (around 40%) were born outside the UK



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- In 2021, about 5,000 people (around 40%) were born outside the UK
- Currently just **one evangelical church** of c70 members

2. How does Jesus respond to this need? (v35-36)

## Matthew 9v36

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## Matthew 14v14

Jesus “had compassion on them and healed their sick.”

## Matthew 14v14

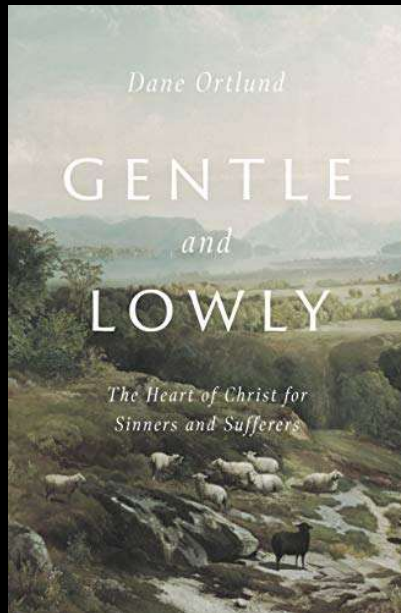
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## Matthew 15v32

“I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way.”

“The Jesus given to us in the gospels is not simply one who loves, but one who is love; merciful affections stream from his innermost heart as rays from the sun.”

Dane Ortlund



3. How can we be part of Jesus' response? (v37-38)



## Matthew 9v37-38

<sup>37</sup> “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.”

### 3. How can we be part of Jesus' response? (v37-38)

- See the potential (v37)

# The Quiet Revival

DR RHIANNON MCALEER AND  
DR ROB BARWARD-SYMONS



## “The Quiet Revival” Survey (The Bible Society/ YouGov)

- 2 million more people attend church now than in 2018
- The number of 16-24 year olds attending church is up from 4% to 16%

“Speak to clergymen the length and breadth of the country and the response is similar: a mildly stunned air at the rapid pace of growth in their own congregations and those of their neighbouring parishes, a phenomenon borne out not only by anecdote but by data. Church attendance across England and Wales is rising sharply, especially amongst young people.”

*Daily Telegraph* - Easter Sunday

### 3. How can we be part of Jesus' response? (v37-38)

- See the potential (v37)
- Pray for workers (v38)

“Notice that Jesus doesn’t say, “Here’s the harvest, now go!” Instead, he says, “Here’s the harvest, now pray!” Jesus will eventually get to the go part, but first his followers must be on their knees, asking and pleading with God to send out workers. This is precisely what we should be doing in our churches as we seek to send people out regularly into this dark world to proclaim the gospel. We should actually pray for people to leave... on mission. God loves to answer prayers like this. Our churches ought to be sending bases of labourers for the harvest of souls. No one is to be a spectator.”

**David Platt**