



## **Sermon Notes: “The Unqualified”**

**Matthew 9:35 - 10:4; 2 Corinthians 4:5-7; 1 Corinthians 1:27-29**

2.1.26

### **THE NEED WAS OVERWHELMING:**

- **Matthew 9:35-38:** Jesus went everywhere did everything and felt deeply but what did he find: the crowds weren't just large they were lost.
- The harvest is opportunity, not burden.
- **Implication of Prayer:** When you ask God to send workers, don't be surprised when He taps your shoulder.

### **THE UNLIKELY LINE UP:**

- Jesus builds teams the world would never draft.
- Jesus gave them authority — not because of who they were, but because of who HE is.

**Big TAKEAWAY:** God's design is partnership, not performance.

### **LESSONS FROM JUDAS:**

- Grace and sovereignty work together.
- **Warning:** Proximity isn't the same as surrender.

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## **So What?**

The harvest is still plentiful. The workers are still few. And Jesus is still calling.

***Will you go?***

## For Study, Reflection, Discussion During the Week:

**Life Group ICEBREAKER:** Have you ever been picked for something you felt completely unqualified for? What happened?

### REVIEW:

Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? What was it and why did it resonate with you?

### READ: Matthew 9:35-38

- Jesus saw the crowds as "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." Where do you see people like this in your daily life — at work, in your neighborhood, online?
- Darin said, "The harvest is opportunity, not burden." How does this shift your perspective on sharing your faith or serving others?

### READ: Matthew 10:1-4

- Look at the list of the Twelve. Which disciple do you most relate to and why? (Peter the loud mouth? Thomas the doubter? Matthew the outsider?) Jesus put a tax collector (Matthew) and a zealot (Simon) on the same team — political enemies! What does this tell us about the kind of community Jesus builds?
- "Jesus gave them authority — not because of who THEY were, but because of who HE is." How does this truth free you from the pressure to be "good enough" for God to use you?
- Jesus chose Judas KNOWING he would betray Him. What does this tell us about grace? What does it tell us about God's sovereignty?

### READ: 1 Corinthians 1:27-29

- God chose the "foolish," "weak," "lowly," and "despised" things — why? What's the purpose according to verse 29?
- What area of your life do you feel most "unqualified" — at work, in parenting, in ministry, in your faith? How does this passage speak to that?

**DEPLOY: This Week Pray the Dangerous Prayer** — Ask God: "Lord of the harvest, send out workers... and show me where YOU want to send ME." Be ready for Him to answer because God's design is *partnership*, not *performance*. What's the difference between being CLOSE to Jesus and being SURRENDERED to Jesus? How do you know which one you are?

### Don't Forget:

- **Go LOVE Team Training** — Derek Murphy from IMCP will be leading training on gospel conversations. All-church Sunday School coming soon!
- **Mexico Mission Trip** Fundraiser dinner: Feb 14<sup>th</sup>. Consider supporting financially and pray for them!
- **Love and Respect Marriage Conference:** This weekend Feb 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> here at ECC.

### Prayer:

*Father,*

*Thank You that You don't call the qualified — You qualify the called. Thank You that our past doesn't disqualify us, and the mission doesn't depend on our perfection — it depends on Your faithfulness.*

*Forgive us for the times we've sat on the sidelines because we felt too broken, too messed up, too unqualified. Forgive us for the times we've been close to You without being surrendered to You.*

*We are fragile clay jars and yet you have placed a treasure inside us. Let Your light shine through our cracks. Use our brokenness as a resume, not a disqualifier.*

*The harvest is plentiful. The workers are few. Here we are, Lord — send us.*

*In Jesus' name, Amen.*