

CALL TO PRAYER

Begin by calling upon God: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Let us pause for a moment, and listen attentively to this week's passage.

THE WORD OF GOD

Matthew 9:36-10:8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At the sight of the crowds, Jesus' heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and **abandoned**, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is **abundant** but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest."

Then he summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over **unclean spirits** to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness. The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus; Simon from Cana, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed him.

Jesus sent out these twelve after instructing them thus, "Do not go into **pagan territory** or enter a Samaritan town. Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this **proclamation**: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give."

The Gospel of the Lord

FAITH SHARING

Questions of the Week

Choose one

1. The twelve disciples were given awesome powers and responsibilities. Would you like to have been one of them? Why or why not?
2. Jesus recognized that "the crowds" were going to need a lot of help. When you see a large and difficult problem, do you try to solve it on your own, or do you ask others for help?
3. Given that the apostles were commissioned as "laborers" for the harvest, why was Jesus so insistent that they not be "paid?"

Thanks to the James Joyce Reading Group for developing these questions.

CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God, our hope and our strength, without you we falter. Help us to follow Christ and to live according to your will. We ask this, as we ask all things, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

GOSPEL WORD SEARCH

P S L W K K U X H T
 R T H A D D E U S V
 O I L L N E S S T Q
 C W C T I R E G I R
 L K E Z P M Y S R C
 A S E L P I C S I D
 M D G S O I T L P M
 A T R R J C P Y S A
 T W N E P A G A N T
 I E O R H K X D O T
 O L M O I P R D A H
 N V I B G E E B H E
 C E S A W N A H S W
 A S C L O N H A S R
 N H G M D A E Q E X
 A K M O R S T T Z W
 W U N V I P E E H S
 S E E D L P V T J X
 D S N A E L C N U X
 T I G Q A K A O P S



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| ABANDONED | PITY |
| ANDREW | PROCLAMATION |
| CANA | SHEEP |
| DISCIPLES | SHEPHERD |
| DISEASE | SIMON |
| HARVEST | SPIRITS |
| ILLNESS | SUMMONED |
| LABORERS | THADDEUS |
| MATTHEW | TWELVE |
| PAGAN | UNCLEAN |
| PETER | |

GOSPEL GLOSSARY

Abandoned means left alone without anyone to care for the person or thing.

Abundant means rich, plentiful.

Unclean spirits are devils.

Pagan territory refers to places where people did not believe in the true God.

A **proclamation** is a speech or announcement.