

Matthew 9:35–38

In the next chapter Jesus DOES send laborers into the harvest.

The “Limited Commission”

Matthew 10:5–7

Won't Be Easy

- “And whoever will **NOT** receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet” (v. 14).

Won't Be Easy

- “Behold, I send you out as a sheep in the **midst of wolves**. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves” (v. 16).

Won't Be Easy

- “But beware of men, for they will hand you over to the courts and scourge you in their synagogues; and you will even be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles” (vv. 17–18, NAS).

Won't Be Easy

- “And you will be **hated** by all for My name’s sake...” (v. 22).

Won't Be Easy

- “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!” (vv. 24–25, ESV).

Won't Be Easy

- “Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (v. 28, NAS).

Won't Be Easy

- “Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death... Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household'” (vv. 21, 34–36).

Despite these difficulties...

- We can't be intimidated. We must continue to preach the word in love, but also boldly and fearlessly.
 - “Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and whatever you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops” (v. 27).
 - “Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My father in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My father who is in heaven” (vv. 32–33).

Encouraging Words from Jesus

- It is for HIS sake that we endure these things.
 - Verses 18, 22.
 - “So they departed from the presence of the council, **rejoicing** that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name” (Acts 5:41).

Encouraging Words from Jesus

- It's the same treatment Jesus received.
 - Verses 24–25.
 - “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy” (1 Peter 4:12–13).

Encouraging Words from Jesus

- Our Father knows what we're going through, and He will take care of us.
 - Verses 29–31.
 - “But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom” (2 Timothy 4:17–18).

Encouraging Words from Jesus

- The worst thing man can do to us in no way compares to the worst thing God can do to us.
 - Verse 28.
 - “But the **cowardly**...shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death” (Revelation 21:8).

Encouraging Words from Jesus

- He who endures to the end will be saved (v. 28).
 - “For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast **to the end**” (Hebrews 3:14).
 - “Do not fear what you are about to suffer...Be faithful **until death**, and I will give you the crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).