

GO! THE HARVEST AWAITS

As educators, we often begin a new school year with excitement. We thrive on the possibilities and look forward to making a difference in the lives of students and colleagues. However, it doesn't take long before we face the reality that the needs around us far outweigh our ability to meet them. Jesus faced the same reality during His earthly ministry. He was on a mission to share the Gospel, yet the needs of the people were overwhelming. Let's take a look at what Jesus encountered and how His response can encourage us as we begin a new school year.

Read [Matthew 9:35-38](#).

What had Jesus been busy doing? (Scan the previous verses in Matthew 9.)

How did Matthew describe the crowds?

Feeling busy and overwhelmed by unmet needs is something every educator understands. At times our students may also seem helpless, confused, or lost. **How did Jesus respond to the crowds? How do you relate to this experience? What would it look like for you to respond to the needs around you as Jesus did?**

Re-read [Matthew 9:37-38](#).

Jesus described the many souls who needed to hear the good news as a harvest waiting to be gathered. The need was great, but the workers were few. **What did Jesus tell his disciples to do? Who was in charge of the harvest?**

As Christian educators, you may not be standing in front of your students preaching the Gospel, but you are planting seeds for a harvest as you serve in your own mission field. Your students and colleagues need compassion. They need encouragement. They need to see what it looks like when Jesus lives in the heart of a believer. This is the work God has purposefully given you. You don't have to meet every need or reach every person. The **Lord of the harvest** is in charge. Your responsibility is simply to be willing to go where He has placed you and faithfully serve the people He puts in your path.

As you begin this new school year, go with purpose. Go with compassion. Go with courage. Go knowing that God has already equipped you for the work He has called you to do. **The harvest awaits. Will you go?** Pray. Ask God to use you this year like never before. **Take Jesus to school!**

Father, thank You for placing me exactly where You want me to serve. As I enter this new school year, help me to see students, colleagues, and others through Your eyes. When the needs around me feel overwhelming, remind me that I am not responsible for meeting every need. You are the Lord of the harvest. Give me compassion for those who are hurting, patience for those who are struggling, and courage to be a reflection of You in my school. Use my words, my actions, and my presence to plant seeds that You can use for Your purposes. Lord, I am ready. I am set. I am willing to go. Use me this year like never before. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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