

Sermon Outline
“Pray for the Harvest”
Matthew 9:35-38

I. Introduction

Closing out the teaching/healing section – 4:23-9:35

New element of the story begins in 9:36 – looking upon the crowd
Cf. 5:1 and the connection with 4:23-25

Sheep without a shepherd – people harassed and dejected
See Eze 34:1-6 (*cf.* Jer 50:6-7); Numb 27:15-18

II. The call to prayer vv. 37-38

The focus of the prayer

The need for workers
See I Kings 22:17 – the Lord is about to be removed.

The 12 will be sent out
to do the work of Jesus (*cf.* 10:7-8)
to add to their numbers (*cf.* 10:40-41)

The connotations of the prayer

Told to pray for workers to be sent forth

Themselves sent out to do the work prayed for

III. An assignment:

This section of Matthew’s narrative (9:35-10:8) is set forth in a chiastic structure. See if you can identify the chiasmus (*hint:* it is made up of 9 elements A-E and back) as preparation for next week’s sermon.