

Matthew 9:1-42 – The Lord of the Harvest**A plentiful harvest**

“the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest so send workers into his harvest”

1) God’s message and authority (v 1-15)

“The Kingdom of heaven has come near”.

Two restrictions

Firstly ... the lost sheep of Israel.

Secondly, they cannot take anything with them.

So what parts of this passage so far apply to us?

a) The message is given by God

b) We have the same authority

“do we have the same authority to cast out demons, heal the sick and raise the dead?”

2) No Sunday school picnic (v 16-25)

verse 16 ...like sheep among wolves.

... be shrewd as snakes and innocent as doves.

What does it mean to be shrewd? “*sharp powers of judgement or being astute*”.

“sharp-witted, sharp, acute, intelligent, clever, alert, canny, media-savvy, perceptive, perspicacious, observant, discriminating, sagacious, sage, wise, far-seeing, far-sighted”

1 Peter 2:20, if their persecution comes about because they are doing wrong it is their own fault.

... as they are persecuted in gospel ministry they will not be alone.

3) Do not be afraid

a) Do not fear those who slander you – v 26

b) Do not fear those who persecute you (even if they kill you) – v 28

c) Do not fear that you are not important to God – v 31

For us today

No Sunday school picnic

“How do we go about speaking the gospel in our changing society?”