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Devotion for October 7th, 2021

Matthew 9:18-38

Today's reading comes from Matthew 9:18-38. In the beginning of this section we hear again about several miraculous healings Jesus worked in the people He served. If you haven't gotten a chance to read my devotion from Monday, I urge you to go back to read it and hear more about what Jesus teaches us through His healings ([Matthew 8:1-17](#)). In these three healings, He makes sure to emphasize that the people's faith is what heals them.

Their trust in His ability to do the things He says is pivotal.

Verses 35-38 may be some that you are familiar with - the phrase "the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few" is one we hear often when talking about spreading the Gospel, or perhaps specifically when discussing a lack of pastors.

It was very appropriate that this reading came across my desk this week as I'm writing several lessons to encourage our school scholars to consider church work as a future profession. I fervently pray that many of them would follow that path, that the church would be provided faithful pastors, deaconesses, teachers, kantors, and many other roles. As verse 38 says, *"therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."*

While pursuing church work is to be encouraged, there are also many other vocations that Christians fill. In those other vocations, there can be found ways to support church workers. You can pray that God might raise up workers, and pray for those currently studying and serving. You could reach out to those you know to ask how you might support their physical and emotional needs.

*God's blessings,
Marissa Kroenke, Deaconess Intern*

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