



4th Sunday after Pentecost
6th July 2025

Will you obey the Spirit's call to be a worker in the Lord's Harvest?

Main Point:

As workers in God's harvest field, we are called to enter hard places with humility and compassion, sowing seeds of hope and healing even when the work is difficult or uncomfortable. By faithfully listening, welcoming, and supporting those who struggle—like we did through our recent domestic violence awareness seminars—we participate in Christ's mission and trust God to bring the harvest.

Intro |

Have you ever felt God nudging you to do something uncomfortable—something that might not make sense, but deep down you know it's right?

Maybe it's reaching out to someone who's hurting or starting a conversation about a topic everyone else avoids.

Over the past few weeks, our church has stepped into that very space. Through our domestic violence awareness seminars, we opened our doors and our hearts to some of the hardest, most hidden struggles in our community.

It wasn't easy. It took courage, honesty, and a willingness to be vulnerable.

But in those moments, we were living out what it means to answer Christ's call—to be workers in His harvest field, even when the work is difficult or uncomfortable.

I want to thank everyone who participated, who prayed, who showed up, and who listened. You have been Christ's hands and feet in a very real way.

As I was reflecting on our three seminars and the stories we heard at each, I was amazed at how the three passages of Scripture we read today speak powerfully to our calling as God's people to enter into the harvest field.

Each of these passages, in its own way, calls us to step out in faith, to sow seeds of hope, and to be present in the world—even when it's hard.

Point 1: God's healing often requires humble obedience

Let's start with the story of Naaman in 2 Kings 5.

Naaman was a powerful man, a commander of armies, but he was also a man in need. He suffered from leprosy—a disease that isolated him, that marked him as unclean.

When he heard that there might be healing in Israel, he went, but he almost missed his miracle because God's instructions, given through the prophet Elisha, seemed too simple, too humble, too beneath him.

"Go wash in the Jordan seven times," Elisha said.

Naaman was offended. He wanted something grand, something worthy of his status. But it was only when he humbled himself, when he obeyed, that he was healed.

Isn't that so often the way with us? We want to help, we want to make a difference, but sometimes God's call leads us into places that feel beneath us, or at least outside our comfort zone.

Sometimes, like Naaman, we resist. We want to serve in ways that feel significant, but God asks us to serve in ways that are simple—listening, showing up, being present for someone who is hurting, whose life is in a mess.

That's what we did in our seminars. We didn't solve every problem. We didn't have all the answers. But we created space for people to talk about things that are usually hidden in the shadows. We listened. We learned. We offered a safe place. And in doing so, we were obedient to God's call—even when it was uncomfortable.

Point 2: God's harvest comes through us persevering in our presence in the harvest field

Paul, in his letter to the Galatians, picks up this theme of faithful, sometimes unseen, obedience.

He writes, *"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. You will always harvest what you plant ... Let us not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we do not give up."* (Galatians 6:7, 9)

Saints, I know it can be tiring to keep volunteering, to keep doing good, especially when the needs are so great and the problems so complex. When we talk about issues like domestic violence, it can feel overwhelming. We question, 'what difference can we really make?'

But Paul reminds us that every act of kindness, every seed of hope, every moment we spend listening and loving, is a seed sown in God's field. We may not see the harvest right away, but God promises that it will come.

And then we come to Jesus' words in Luke 10.

Jesus looked at the crowds and said, *"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."* (Luke 10:2)

Point 3: God calls us to enter the harvest—even when it's hard and messy

He sends out seventy-two disciples, not to the easy places, but to towns and villages where they would be strangers, where they would have to rely on the hospitality of others, where they would face rejection and hardship.

And yet, when they return, they are filled with joy—not because the work was easy, but because they saw God at work through them.

Saints, may we have eyes that see the world as God's harvest field. May we have eyes that see how ripe it is.

May we also have a preparedness to enter the harvest field, knowing it will not be a comfortable place. Harvest fields are usually places of hard work and pain, places of brokenness, of hard conversations and heavy burdens.

But it is also the place where God's healing and hope can break through.

When we step into those places—when we are willing to talk about hard things like domestic violence, when we open our doors to those who are struggling, when we choose to be a welcoming, listening presence—we are answering Christ's call to be workers in His harvest field.

I want to encourage us today: don't underestimate the power of your presence.

Don't underestimate the seeds you are sowing.

When you listen to someone's story, when you offer a word of encouragement, when you pray for someone who is hurting, you are participating in God's work of healing and restoration. You are helping to bring the kingdom of God a little closer to earth.

Naaman's story reminds us that healing often comes through humble obedience.

Galatians reminds us that the harvest comes to those who do not give up.

And Jesus reminds us that the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. The need is great, but so is the opportunity.

Application: Let's be workers in God's harvest field

As we continue to be a church that is willing to enter hard places, let's remember that we do not go alone.

The same Spirit who empowered the seventy-two disciples, who brought healing to Naaman, who sustained Paul in his ministry, is with us today. He goes before us, He goes with us, and He is the great harvester.

Let's not just pray for more workers, let **us be** prepared **to be a** worker in the Lord's harvest.

Let's keep sowing seeds of hope and healing.

Let's keep opening our doors and our hearts to those who are struggling. And let's trust that God will bring the harvest—in His time, in His way.

May we be a church that is known not just for our words, but for our willingness to enter into the hard places with love, humility, and hope.

May we be workers in God's harvest field, wherever He calls us to go.

Closing prayer:

Gracious God,

Thank you for calling us to be workers in Your harvest field. Give us courage and compassion to enter hard places, to listen, and to love as you have loved us. Strengthen us to sow seeds of hope and healing in our community, trusting that you will bring the harvest in your perfect time. Guide us by your Spirit, and make us instruments of your peace and restoration. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Reflection Questions

Allow these questions to help you reflect on Christ's call to be a worker in His harvest field:

1. Where is God calling me to step out of my comfort zone and serve others in my community?
2. How can I be more attentive and compassionate to those who are struggling with hidden or difficult issues?
3. What "seeds" of kindness, hope, or healing can I sow in the lives of others this week?
4. In what ways have I seen God bring transformation—either in myself or others—through simple acts of obedience?
5. How can our church continue to be a welcoming and safe place for those who are hurting or in need?