



October 2025



The harvest is plentiful *but the* **LABOURERS ARE FEW**

MATTHEW 9:37

Reflection:

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In this missionary month of October, we reflect on Jesus' words to his disciples when he saw the people, fearful and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. His words reveal his deep compassion for them. But what is this labour for which the workers are few? It is the mission of being a missionary. From the realisation that every Christian is called to share the Gospel, we begin to understand the need, nature, methods, and scope of this work.

The Lord of the harvest is God the Father. The phrase "abundant harvest" reminds us that everyone needs Christ. I recall a classmate's mother who once asked for a Bible. Her family had come from a Hindu background and later became atheists. She said, "When my husband was admitted to a Catholic hospital, I read the Bible displayed in a glass case there, and I felt deep peace and comfort." That moment confirmed for me once again that every heart needs Christ.

I believe this harvest is gathered in three ways. The first is when people, in their search for ultimate truth, discover Christ as the fullness of truth. Such seekers become open to knowing Him and accepting Him as God. A person with a missionary heart can present Christ to them and help transform that openness into fruitfulness. This search for truth is a reality found in many hearts, regardless of their religion or beliefs.

The second way is through the change of heart that comes amid life's crises, struggles, and failures. In such moments, people often become unconsciously ready to receive Christ as their hope. If we present Christ to them—the Way, the Truth, and the Life—they need not fall into despair, deception, or destructive choices.

The third way is through those who have personally encountered Christ and allowed His life to transform them. From the fullness of this experience of love, they consciously introduce Him to others. Is this not the attitude that should mark every Christian, and especially every Jesus Youth, as one called to the work of the Gospel? May the Spirit of God ignite in us this missionary call, so that we may witness to Christ wherever we are.

"... Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction" (Matthew 9:35). Here, Jesus gives us the pattern of true missionary work: to love, to heal, to proclaim, to teach, and to live. The heart of a missionary is to share Christ with genuine desire. This happens most effectively through the testimony of our lives—both in words and in deeds. When we open our eyes to those around us—our families, neighbourhoods, friendships, colleagues, daily encounters, and every relationship—we begin to recognise the harvest that is ripe and the urgent need for workers in the Lord's vineyard.

Only those who have truly met and recognised the One who calls can begin and persevere in the work of evangelisation. True missionary activity springs from the natural impulse of a heart that has encountered Christ. Those who have not yet had such a personal encounter, or who do not yet recognise Him, should earnestly desire and pray for it. The Apostle Paul reminds us of the power of this encounter when he testified before King Agrippa: "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision" (Acts 26:19). Like Paul, who embraced his first encounter with Christ with utmost seriousness, let us also return to and sincerely meditate on our own first encounter with Christ.

Just as it is crucial for farmers to harvest ripe paddy fields on time—lest the entire crop be lost—so too is it the responsibility of every missionary to gather the harvest that God has prepared. The opportunity must be seized at the right moment, for delay can mean loss. Therefore, let us pray for vigilance and an awakened heart, so that we may recognise and respond to every harvest God places before us in daily life. As Jesus Youth, especially during this missionary month, let us also invite, encourage, and empower our fellow believers to join in this work of bringing souls to Christ.

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