

## Bible Study for the week of 14<sup>th</sup> June

### Jesus saw the crowds.....

- This week I invite you to begin by praying the following verses from this week's psalm and then to watch or read the news, keeping the words of the psalm in your mind. What strikes you?

#### Psalm 100

Know that the Lord is God;  
It is he that has made us and we are his;  
We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.....  
For the Lord is gracious;  
his steadfast love is everlasting,  
and his faithfulness endures  
from generation to generation.

- Now read our gospel: **Matt 9:35-10:8**

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. <sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; <sup>38</sup>therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. <sup>2</sup>These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; <sup>3</sup>Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup>Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

<sup>5</sup>These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup>but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup>As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' <sup>8</sup>Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.



- Jesus sees the crowd and has compassion on them.  
How does this compare with how we, or those in authority, tend to see crowds and the judgements we make about them?
- ‘They were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.’  
In what ways are people currently experiencing feelings of being harassed or helpless and what form of shepherding do you think we have been experiencing or witnessing?
- Reading this passage, do you see yourself most immediately as one of the harassed, helpless crowd or as one of the disciples sent out to bring the crowd good news? Is this how you generally feel or does it shift?
- What might it mean for you and me, in today’s world, to cast out unclean spirits and cure sickness and what would good news look like?