

Matthew: The Compassionate Servant King

Discussion Guide for Matthew 9:35-38; 10:1-4 on August 2 & 3, 2025

Summary

In this passage, we see Jesus as the compassionate servant King. He moves through towns teaching, proclaiming the good news, and healing. He is deeply moved by the crowds—harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd. His compassion compels action: He calls His disciples, gives them authority, and sends them out to continue His ministry. Jesus models leadership rooted in love, and He invites His followers to share in His mission.

Intro Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for being our compassionate King. Open our hearts today to see the world as You see it—with eyes of compassion and a heart ready to serve. Teach us to follow You more closely and to respond with courage when You send us. In Your name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one interesting fact about your family history that you know?

Key Verses

Matthew 9:36

Matthew 9:37-38

Matthew 10:1

Questions

1. What stands out to you about Jesus' response to the crowds in Matthew 9:36? How is this different from how we often see or treat people in need?
2. What do you think it means to have "compassion" the way Jesus did? How is it different from pity or sympathy?
3. Why do you think Jesus used the metaphor of a harvest when talking about the crowds? What does that say about the urgency of the mission?
4. How does Jesus' compassion lead to action in this passage? What does that tell us about the relationship between feeling and doing in our faith?
5. Matthew 10:1-4 lists the twelve disciples Jesus called and empowered. How does it encourage or challenge you to think that Jesus uses ordinary people to do extraordinary work?
6. Where in your life right now might Jesus be calling you to "go" with compassion—to serve, lead, or speak up? What would it look like to respond?

Life Application

Spend time this week identifying one area where you can serve with compassion—whether it's a person, a group, or a need you're aware of. Pray to have God's heart toward that situation, and take one small step to respond with action, just as Jesus did.

Key Takeaways

1. Jesus' compassion is not passive—it leads to action.
2. The need around us is great, and Jesus invites us to be part of His solution.
3. The King of Kings chooses to serve—and calls His people to do the same.
4. We are not sent out alone; Jesus equips those He calls.

Ending Prayer

Jesus, thank You for seeing us when we were harassed and helpless and for coming to rescue us. Help us to be people of compassion, moved to act in love for others. Empower us by Your Spirit to respond to the needs around us, not in our strength, but in Yours. Make us more like You—servant-hearted and courageous. Amen.



