

11/07/21 **The Compassion of Jesus Changes Everything; Matthew 9:35-38**

**Vs. 35,** He is proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom!

As he goes, he travels through cities and villages, teaching in their places of worship.  
He heals diseases and afflictions in tandem with his preaching.

**Vs. 36,** He looks out on the crowds and has **Compassion.**

The defining emotion for Jesus when looking at the crowd of people is compassion.

If we want the **mind of Christ**, we must understand this emotion.

Compassion - A feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering.

**It is multi-dimensional.**

They were harassed and helpless → Attacked and berated from the outside, incapable of changing anything for themselves.

Total and complete inadequacy.

The likeness of sheep without a shepherd.

**Psalm 23**

**Vs. 1,** Provides every need

**Vs. 2,** Gives rest, provision, refreshment, security

**Vs. 3,** Restoration, righteousness, for his name.

**Vs. 4,** In the midst of suffering I don't have to be afraid, He is with me, Gives comfort, Disciplines

**Vs. 5,** Gives abundantly, lavishes blessings

**Vs. 6,** Gives goodness and mercy, always, dwells with us

**Vs. 1, *The Lord is my shepherd***

The shepherding is rooted in the character of God.

Remember! **Micah 5:4**

“And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.”

What if the Shepherd was:

Fame, appetite, relationship, self, worldly acceptance, fear, atheism, religion, political leaders etc...

To live is...

If to live is anything but Christ... There is

**Vs. 1,** Only lack

**Vs. 2,** Striving, heat, discomfort, fear

**Vs. 3,** Unrighteousness, shame

**Vs. 4,** Fear, Loneliness, License, Unmeasured consequences

**Vs. 5,** Scarcity

**Vs. 6,** Evil, separation from God

**This is what Jesus saw as the physical and spiritual reality of the crowd... He knew Psalm 23, he knew a perfect abiding relationship with the Father, he knew that the people did not have it, he knew their portion was death and fear.**

And his emotion was not anger, spite, disgust, judgment, shock, or even pity...

But Compassion...

**Conviction:** If we are to be people who share the gospel, then we must understand the compassion that Jesus had for us, and we must be moved by that same compassion to worship the Father and to proclaim the word of the kingdom to those who do not know Jesus.

**Vs. 37,** “Then [in light of the spiritual reality of the crowd and his compassion] he said to his disciples ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few’”

Jesus says that these are the very people who may receive the Word of the Kingdom, but laborers are few.

Jesus has been laboring from his compassion.

**The lack of laborers must be due, in part, to a lack of compassion.**

Our motivations can be divided: Philippians 1:15-18

Envy and rivalry vs. good will,

Selfish Ambition vs. Love,

Paul very quickly in Ch 2 instructs us to “do nothing from selfish ambition”

Think Timothy! “For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare.”

How do we develop compassion?

**Matthew 9:20-22**

20 And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, 21 for she said to herself, “If I only touch his garment, I will be made well.” 22 Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well.

**Jesus speaks to the very core insecurities that define this woman, and in an instant she is transformed and restored. This is the aim of evangelism! This is how we develop compassion.**

What were you like before you encountered Jesus?

What are two words that describe your lostness?

How did you encounter Jesus?

How did Jesus interact with you in those attributes of your lostness?

What changed as a result of Jesus?

What words describe you now, as a result of knowing Jesus as your shepherd?

If you follow this template of questions, this becomes an incredibly authentic way to simultaneously develop compassion and share the gospel.

**Vs. 38, “Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”**

This does not excuse us from being laborers, but shows a reliance on God for salvation and an understanding that compassion will not come from our wicked and deceitful hearts.

Do you believe that there is a plentiful harvest?

Are you moved by the compassion of Jesus to labor?

What inhibits your compassion? Selfish ambition? Unbelief?

How often do you think of the spiritual reality of those around you? Monthly? Daily? Hourly?

Where are you blind to the harassed and helpless state of those around you?

Who can you tell about the Word of the Kingdom?