

# Sunday Sermon Guide

Central Baptist Church – Crockett, Texas

March 1, 2026 – Miracle Moments: From Miracles to Mission

**Main Passage:** Matthew 9:35-38

## **Main Idea:**

Jesus' miracles proved who He is — but compassion reveals why He came, and mission defines what we must now do.

## **I. The Review of the King's Ministry (v.35)**

### **A. A Bookend Moment**

- Matthew 4:23 and Matthew 9:35 mirror one another.
- Jesus:
  - 1) Teaching in synagogues
  - 2) Preaching the Kingdom
  - 3) Healing every disease

### **B. The Miracles Were Credentials**

- Healing the leper (Messianic sign)
  - Casting out demons
  - Calming storms
  - Forgiving sin
  - Raising the dead
  - Opening blind eyes
  - Restoring speech
- These were not random acts of kindness.
  - They were divine declarations: **The Messiah has come.**

## **II. The Compassion of the King (v.36)**

### **A. Why Compassion?**

- Not because of:
  - Physical sickness, Poverty, or Circumstances
- But because they were:
  - Distressed, Dejected, and Spiritually Discouraged
- The word for distressed carries the idea of being:
  - Torn, Harassed, Emotionally beaten down

### **B. Sheep Without a Shepherd**

- Sheep:

- Wander, follow blindly, are vulnerable, cannot lead themselves
- The people had shepherds — but bad ones.

**The Problem:**

- Pharisees denied the obvious Messiah.
- Religious leaders cared about power, not people.
- Truth was distorted.
- Standards kept moving.

**Result:**

- Confused. Discouraged. Spiritually exhausted.

**III. The Danger of Bad Shepherds**

*Matthew 23:13: “You shut the door of the kingdom in people’s faces.”*

- When leadership distorts the Gospel:
  - 1) People grow weary.
  - 2) Faith feels impossible.
  - 3) Religion becomes oppressive.
  - 4) Hope disappears.
- Miracles alone do not produce faith.
- Evidence alone does not create surrender.
- Bad shepherds can drown out the voice of the Good Shepherd.

**IV. The Shift: From Miracles to Mission (vv. 37–38)**

*The turning point: “The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few.”*

**A. A New Model of Leadership**

- **Not:** Legislating, Controlling, Shaming
- **But:** Recruiting, Shepherding, Loving, Seeking the lost
- The Pharisees **ruled** the flock.
- Jesus **rescues** the flock.

**B. Understanding the Kingdom Shift**

- 1) **Old Testament** — A Promise (to Abraham)
  - 2) **Jesus’ earthly ministry** — A Proposal (to Israel)
  - 3) **After rejection (Matt. 12)** — A Program (recruiting citizens)
  - 4) **Return of Christ** — A Place (earthly Kingdom)
- We live in the harvest era.

## **V. Pray for Workers**

*Notice: Jesus tells the disciples to pray — the very ones who will become the workers.*

- When we pray for workers:
  - a) God aligns our will to His.
  - b) God moves the boat — not the shore.
  - c) God may call us.
- Lost sheep are not hard to find - Good shepherds are rare.

## **VII. Call to the Church**

- We do not need more spectators.
- We need shepherd-hearted servants.
  - 1) Love people more than position.
  - 2) Love truth more than praise.
  - 3) Love Christ more than comfort.

If we pray for workers...

God may answer by sending us.