Sunday Sermon Guide

Central Baptist Church – Crockett, Texas
November 8, 2026 – Church Health: The Vision We Must Never Lose

Main Passage: Matthew 9:35–38

Main Idea:

A healthy church keeps its eyes on the people Jesus came to save and keeps everything it does connected to the mission He gave us.

1) A Healthy Church Sees People the Way Jesus Sees Them (vv. 35–36)

Supporting Scriptures: *Matthew 9:36; Matthew 28:19*

- Jesus sees distressed and dejected people, "like sheep without a shepherd."
- People are more than attendance numbers, prospects, or a question of whether they "fit" our church.
- Our vision begins by seeing Crockett with compassion and recognizing people's need for Jesus.
- Ask: Who have I overlooked or kept at a distance whom Jesus calls me to love and serve?

2) A Healthy Church Recognizes the Urgency of the Harvest (v. 37)

Supporting Scriptures: *Matthew 9:37; Matthew 28:19*

- The harvest is still abundant. A changing culture does not mean the harvest has disappeared.
- Methods change, but Christ's mission to make disciples remains. Programs and traditions must serve that mission.
- A healthy church keeps a mission mindset and asks how to reach people today.
- Ask: Are we maintaining an activity because it serves the mission, or simply because we have always done it?

3) A Healthy Church Prays for Workers (v. 38)

Supporting Scriptures: *Matthew 9:38; Ephesians 3:20–21*

- Jesus tells His disciples to pray to the Lord of the harvest before they make their plans.
- Prayer moves from "God, send people our way" to "God, send workers. Send us. Use me."
- A vision that does not drive us to prayer has not yet gripped our hearts.
- Ask: Is reaching people with the Gospel a real burden of my prayers, or only a stated priority?

4) A Healthy Church Becomes the Answer to Its Own Prayer

Supporting Scriptures: *Matthew 10:1, 5–8; Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8*

- In Matthew 10, Jesus sends the disciples who had just heard His call to pray for workers.
- Every believer has a part in the mission—not only pastors, staff, or teachers.
- Our vision is "A Christ-Centered Community: Discipling and Sharing Jesus." We pray and participate.
- Ask: Where can I serve, speak, invite, or disciple someone this week?

Takeaways

- Mission tells us why the church exists; vision asks how we obey that mission here and now.
- Jesus sees people with real needs. We must see them with compassion and share the Gospel.
- Programs, methods, and traditions are useful when they help us make disciples.
- Prayer and participation belong together: ask God for workers and offer yourself to be sent.
- Ask of every ministry: “Will this help us serve people, make disciples, and share Jesus?”

Questions for Reflection

1. Am I personally following Jesus Christ, or am I simply connected to the church and its activities?
2. Do I see the people around me the way Jesus sees them—as people who need compassion, truth, forgiveness, and a Savior?
3. Do I genuinely believe the harvest is still plentiful, or have I become convinced that people just aren’t interested in Jesus anymore?
4. Am I praying for God to send workers while being unwilling to say, “Lord, send me”?
5. Is my involvement in the church helping fulfill Christ’s mission, or am I simply participating in routines, programs, and traditions because that’s what we’ve always done?

Bottom Line

A healthy church keeps its eyes on the people Jesus came to save and keeps everything it does connected to the mission He gave us.

