

>> MY NAME IS CLIFF GOODWIN, AND I'M GLAD THAT YOU HAVE TUNED IN OR LOGGED ON TO BE WITH ME HERE TODAY FOR PREACHING THE GOSPEL. AS YOU CAN SEE, I HAVE MY BIBLE OPEN BEFORE ME HERE UPON THE DESK; AND I WANT TO INVITE YOU AT HOME TO TAKE YOUR BIBLE DOWN AND TO OPEN IT UP WITH ME SO THAT WE CAN STUDY THE WORD OF GOD TOGETHER. I'VE ENTITLED OUR STUDY FOR TODAY SIMPLY, THE EYES OF JESUS. THE EYES OF JESUS. NOW, IF WE COULD LOOK THROUGH HIS EYES, WHAT WOULD WE SEE? OR MAYBE THE BETTER QUESTION WOULD BE, HOW WOULD WE SEE? WELL, WE'RE GOING TO NOTICE SOME THINGS TODAY FROM MATTHEW CHAPTER 9, AND PARTICULARLY FROM THE LAST FOUR OR SO VERSES OF THAT CHAPTER THAT SHOW US A GREAT DEAL ABOUT OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST. AND AS WE BEHOLD SOME OF THESE THINGS, SOME OF THESE CHARACTERISTICS, SOME OF THESE POINTS OF CONSIDERATION, THEN HOPEFULLY THAT WILL BENEFIT YOU AND ME IN MOLDING OUR LIVES AND PARTICULARLY IN SHAPING OUR PERSPECTIVES SO THAT AS WE LOOK THROUGH OUR EYES IN DAY-TO-DAY LIVING, THAT WE WILL LOOK AND SEE AS JESUS LOOKED AND AS HE SAW WHILE HE WAS UPON THIS EARTH. THAT SHOULD BE OUR GOAL, NO DOUBT, AS WE LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. SO LET'S GET RIGHT TO OUR TEXT, MATTHEW 9, AND NOTICE WITH ME, BEGINNING AT VERSE 35. THE BIBLE SAYS, AND JESUS WENT ABOUT ALL THE CITIES AND VILLAGES, TEACHING IN THEIR SYNAGOGUES AND PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM, AND HEALING EVERY SICKNESS AND EVERY DISEASE AMONG THE PEOPLE. BUT WHEN HE SAW THE MULTITUDES, HE WAS MOVED WITH COMPASSION ON THEM BECAUSE THEY FAINTED AND WERE SCATTERED ABROAD, AS SHEEP HAVING NO SHEPHERD. THEN SAITH HE UNTO HIS DISCIPLES, THE HARVEST TRULY IS PLENTY, BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW; PRAY YE THEREFORE THE LORD OF THE HARVEST, THAT HE WILL SEND FORTH LABORERS INTO HIS HARVEST. NOW, I TOLD YOU EARLIER THIS IS A POWERFUL PASSAGE; AND IT IS INDEED. IT TELLS US SO MUCH ABOUT OUR LOVING LORD, ABOUT OUR BLESSED SAVIOR. AND AS WE LEARN THESE THINGS, THESE QUALITIES AND THESE ACTIONS REGARDING HIM, CERTAINLY WE ARE INSTRUCTED AND HOPEFULLY MOTIVATED TO MAKE SOME APPLICATION, TO MAKE A GREAT DEAL OF APPLICATION TO OUR OWN LIVES. AND SO AS WE BREAK DOWN THIS TEXT PART BY PART, LET'S CONSIDER THREE IDEAS. NUMBER ONE, I WANT YOU TO CONSIDER WITH ME THE INITIATIVE OF JESUS. HIS INITIATIVE. SOME MIGHT SAY THAT JESUS WAS A SELF-STARTER; AND IN MODERN TERMINOLOGY, I BELIEVE THAT WOULD BE ACCURATE. HE WOULD BE A SELF-STARTER; HE WAS MOTIVATED OBVIOUSLY BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE AND HIS SUBMISSION TO THE FATHER. NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT. AND YET LET'S CONSIDER HIS INITIATIVE FOR A MOMENT. WE READ THERE IN VERSE 35 HOW THAT JESUS, HE WENT ABOUT AND HE TAUGHT IN ALL OF THE CITIES AND IN ALL OF THE VILLAGES. THINK ABOUT THAT KIND OF DEDICATION. NOTICE THAT JESUS NOT ONLY IS DEDICATED AND HE'S COMMITTED TO THIS WORK OF TEACHING AND PREACHING AND SPREADING THE GOSPEL MESSAGE AND HEALING AS WELL; BUT HE'S ALSO NOT SHOWING ANY PARTIALITY FROM ONE VILLAGE TO THE NEXT OR FROM ONE CITY TO THE NEXT. THE TEXT SAYS HE WENT ABOUT ALL THE CITIES AND THE VILLAGES. AND SO THAT TELLS US SOMETHING ABOUT HIS INITIATIVE. LOOK WITH ME TO ANOTHER TEXT. LOOK IN LUKE 4:43-44. HERE LUKE RECORDS THIS: AND HE SAID UNTO THEM, I MUST PREACH THE KINGDOM OF GOD TO OTHER CITIES ALSO; FOR THEREFORE AM I SENT. AND HE PREACHED IN THE SYNAGOGUES OF GALILEE. AND SO I BELIEVE YOU'LL FIND THERE IN THE CONTEXT OF LUKE 4 THAT PERHAPS THERE WERE THOSE WHO WOULD HAVE KEPT JESUS FOR THEMSELVES. THEY WANTED JESUS TO STAY AROUND. JESUS IS HEALING SICK FOLKS, JESUS IS DOING A LOT OF GOOD; BUT JESUS INDICATED

THAT I HAVE OTHER PLACES TO GO AS WELL. I HAVE TO PREACH THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN OTHER CITIES, BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE I'M SENT. THAT IS MY MISSION, SO TO SPEAK. AND I BELIEVE IT IS ACCURATE FOR US TO REFER TO THE WORK OF OUR LORD HERE UPON THE EARTH, TO REFER TO THAT AS A MISSION. I'M REMINDED OF WHAT JESUS SAID IN LUKE 19:10, FOR THE SON OF MAN IS COME, INTO THIS WORLD BEING THE IDEA, TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THAT WHICH WAS LOST. AND SO YES, JESUS CAME ON A MISSION. AND AS WE'RE BEHOLDING THESE OTHER TEXTS, MATTHEW 9, LUKE 4, AND SO FORTH, AS WE'RE WITNESSING HIM ON HIS MISSION, WE SEE HIS INITIATIVE. IT'S INTERESTING THAT JESUS DID NOT SIMPLY SET UP SHOP, SO TO SPEAK, IN ONE LOCATION AND THEN JUST WAIT FOR THE MASSES TO COME UNTO HIM. HE DID NOT DO THAT, DID HE? NO, HE WENT. HE WENT INSTEAD OF WAITING. LET'S MAKE A BRIEF APPLICATION BEFORE WE GO ON ANY FURTHER. ARE WE NOT MAYBE GUILTY OF DOING THE OPPOSITE IN OUR MODERN DAY AND TIME? AND I'M TALKING ABOUT WE, THE CHURCH OF OUR LORD. DO WE NOT BUILD THESE COMFORTABLE, CONVENIENT BUILDINGS, THESE MEETING HOUSES? NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT NECESSARILY. BUT THEN HAVING CONSTRUCTED OUR CHURCH BUILDINGS, DO WE NOT SIMPLY SIT IN THEM, HAVING WEEKLY SERVICE AFTER WEEKLY SERVICE, WAITING FOR THE PEOPLE TO COME TO US? WE'VE BUILT THIS BUILDING, WE'RE HERE IN THE COMMUNITY, OUR DOORS ARE OPEN, SO WE'RE WAITING. WE WANT LOST PEOPLE TO COME TO US. TOO OFTEN, I FEAR, THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT WE SEE. THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT'S GOING ON. BUT WITH THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS, WE'RE BEHOLDING HIS INITIATIVE. JESUS WENT. HE DIDN'T WAIT. AND SO TODAY, WE NEED TO BE MINDFUL OF THE LOST AND WE ACTUALLY NEED TO BE REACHING OUT. WE NEED TO BE GOING AND GETTING THE LOST, BRINGING THE LOST TO JESUS, INVITING THEM AND BRINGING THEM AND DOING ALL THAT WE CAN TO SEE THAT THEY'RE IN THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD'S PEOPLE SO THAT THEY CAN BE EXPOSED TO WHAT THE CHURCH IS ALL ABOUT AND SO THAT THEY CAN BE EXPOSED TO TRUE GOSPEL TEACHING AND HEAR THE TRUTH; BUT THAT'S BEST ACCOMPLISHED NOT BY WAITING, BUT BY GOING. AND THAT'S WHAT WE NEED TO DO AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS. NOW, ANOTHER PASSAGE, IF YOU WANT TO LOOK AT JOHN 21:25, THE BIBLE TELLS US THERE THAT THERE ARE ALSO MANY OTHER THINGS WHICH JESUS DID, THE WHICH, IF THEY SHOULD BE WRITTEN EVERY ONE, I SUPPOSE THAT EVEN THE WORLD ITSELF COULD NOT CONTAIN THE BOOKS THAT SHOULD BE WRITTEN, AMEN. THAT VERSE, JOHN 21:25, IS ACTUALLY THE CLOSE OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNT OF JOHN. AND THAT'S SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE WHAT JOHN IS TELLING US, AMONG OTHER THINGS PERHAPS, BUT HE'S DEFINITELY TELLING US THAT THE MIRACLES THAT JESUS WORKED, THEY WERE BASICALLY INNUMERABLE. I MEAN, WE JUST HAVE NO IDEA EXACTLY HOW MANY SICK PEOPLE DID JESUS HEAL. EVEN FOR THAT MATTER, PERHAPS, HOW MANY DEAD PEOPLE DID JESUS RAISE. WE'RE TOLD OF A HANDFUL IN THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS, BUT IT'S CERTAINLY POSSIBLE THAT HE RAISED MORE. HOW MANY PEOPLE WITH DEMONS OR EVIL SPIRITS DID JESUS CAST THOSE SPIRITS OUT OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS? HOW MANY TIMES DID THAT HAPPEN? WE DON'T KNOW. SIMPLY THERE IN MATTHEW 9:35 THAT WE READ A MOMENT AGO, THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT HE WAS HEALING EVERY SICKNESS AND EVERY DISEASE AMONG THE PEOPLE. I FIND THAT REMARKABLE. AND IT'S WONDERFUL. FIRST OF ALL, THAT SHOWS US AGAIN HIS INITIATIVE, THAT JESUS WAS GOING ABOUT AND HE WAS ACTIVELY DOING GOOD WORK; BUT SECONDLY, IT SHOWS US THAT THERE WAS NEVER A CASE THAT THE GREAT PHYSICIAN LOST. THINK ABOUT THAT. THE GREAT PHYSICIAN NEVER HAD A PATIENT THAT HE LOST. HOW MANY MEDICAL DOCTORS IN OUR MODERN WORLD EVEN CAN SAY THAT? AND THE ANSWER IS

REALLY NOT ANY, I SUPPOSE; NOT ANY WHO HAVE BEEN PRACTICING MEDICINE FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME, ANYWAY. I MEAN, MEDICAL DOCTORS, HUMAN DOCTORS ARE LIMITED. OH, THEY DO SO MUCH GOOD, AND THEY'RE ABLE TO HELP US IN SO MANY WAYS; BUT AT THE SAME TIME, THERE ARE SOME CASES THAT WHEN THEY ENCOUNTER THOSE CASES, THEY REGRETFULLY HAVE TO LOOK AT THE PATIENT AND AT THE PATIENT'S LOVED ONES AND SAY THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO. WELL, THE GREAT PHYSICIAN NEVER ENCOUNTERED THAT KIND OF CASE. ISN'T THAT REMARKABLE? ISN'T THAT BEAUTIFUL AND REASSURING? HE WAS HEALING EVERY SICKNESS AND EVERY DISEASE. AND SO IN HIS INITIATIVE, WE SEE THAT JESUS WENT EVERYWHERE, ESSENTIALLY; HE WENT TO ALL THE CITIES, ALL THE VILLAGES DOING HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY. WE SEE THAT HE DID NOT ENCOUNTER ANY KIND OF PHYSICAL MALADY OR FOR THAT MATTER, ANY KIND OF DEMONIC POSSESSION THAT HE COULD NOT CORRECT AND THAT HE COULD NOT REMEDY OR HEAL. AND SO HIS POWER WAS LIMITLESS IN THAT WAY. WE SEE THAT JESUS WAS IN EVERY WAY SUITED TO BE MAN'S SAVIOR AND TO BE DEMONSTRATED AS SUCH. AND THEN THE PREPONDERANCE OF HIS MIRACLES. I ALMOST FORGOT THAT POINT. BUT WE WENT OVER HOW JOHN CLOSED OUT HIS GOSPEL ACCOUNT BY TELLING US THAT IF I WERE TO WRITE DOWN EVERYTHING THAT HE DID, THE WORLD COULD NOT CONTAIN THE BOOKS; WHICH OF COURSE IS HYPERBOLE, IT'S A MANNER OF SPEAKING. AND YET THE POINT IS MADE. NOTICE THAT POINT ALSO FROM ACTS 2:22. PETER THE APOSTLE WAS PREACHING THERE ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST, AND HE SAID, YE MEN OF ISRAEL, HEAR THESE WORDS: JESUS OF NAZARETH, A MAN APPROVED OF GOD AMONG YOU BY MIRACLES AND WONDERS AND SIGNS WHICH GOD DID BY HIM IN THE MIDST OF YOU, AS YE YOURSELVES ALSO KNOW. AND SO POINT NUMBER ONE, AS WE CONSIDER THE INITIATIVE OF JESUS, IT RESULTED IN THE FACT THAT JESUS WAS WIDELY KNOWN. PEOPLE KNEW OF HIS MIRACLES, THEY WERE UNDENIABLE. PETER COULD BOLDLY PROCLAIM ON THAT DAY THAT YOU KNOW ALL OF THESE THINGS. JESUS WORKED THESE MIRACLES AND THESE WONDERS AND THESE SIGNS. HE DID ALL OF THESE THINGS IN YOUR VERY MIDST. YOU CANNOT DENY THEM, BEING THE POINT. AND SO JESUS WAS ACTIVE, HE WAS A SELF-STARTER IF WE WERE TO BORROW THAT MODERN TERM, HE HAD INITIATIVE AND HE TOOK INITIATIVE. AND SOMETHING WAS REALLY FORESHADOWED ABOUT THIS, I SUPPOSE, WHEN HE WAS ABOUT 12 YEARS OF AGE. REMEMBER, AT 12 YEARS OF AGE, HIS FAMILY HAD BEEN TO JERUSALEM FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF THE FEAST. AT SOME POINT, JESUS BECAME SEPARATED FROM HIS MOTHER AND HIS LEGAL EARTHLY FATHER, JOSEPH. AND WHEN THEY WENT BACK TO JERUSALEM AND THEY FOUND JESUS, REMEMBER HE SAID, WIST YE NOT, OR DID YOU NOT KNOW THAT I MUST BE ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS? AND WHAT A POWERFUL STATEMENT THAT IS. AND EVEN AT 12 YEARS OF AGE, THAT VERY STATEMENT FORESHADOWED IN A SENSE THE WAY THAT JESUS WOULD CONDUCT HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY ONE DAY, WHICH BEGAN AT ABOUT 30 YEARS OF AGE. HE WAS TRULY ABOUT HIS FATHER'S BUSINESS. HOW WONDERFUL THAT IS. NOW, LET'S MOVE ON TO SOMETHING ELSE. NUMBER TWO, WE'RE LOOKING THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS, AND WE BEHOLD INITIATIVE. WE SEE THE NEED, JESUS SAW THE NEED, AND HE TOOK INITIATIVE, HE WAS ACTIVE AND HE ADDRESSED THOSE NEEDS. NOW, NUMBER TWO, AND THIS POINT REALLY GOES HAND IN HAND WITH THE FIRST ONE, CONSIDER HIS INTEREST. HIS INTEREST. SIMPLY PUT, JESUS WAS INTERESTED IN PEOPLE. AND THE WORK OF THE CHURCH STILL TODAY, THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST ACROSS THIS LAND AND ACROSS THE WORLD, THE WORK OF THE CHURCH IS PEOPLE. WE NEVER NEED TO BECOME DISTRACTED OR TO HAVE A MISPLACED EMPHASIS ON PROGRAMS TO THE NEGLECT OF PEOPLE. NOW, PROGRAMS CAN BE

GOOD AND THEY CAN BE USEFUL; BUT THE POINT OF EVERY PROGRAM OF WORK IN THE CHURCH SHOULD BE TO MINISTER TO PEOPLE; ULTIMATELY, AND MOST OF ALL, TO MINISTER TO THEIR SPIRITUAL NEEDS. THAT'S THE GREATEST NEEDS ANY INDIVIDUAL POSSESSES ARE THOSE OF A SPIRITUAL NATURE. AND SO HIS INTEREST, THE INTEREST OF OUR LORD WAS DEFINITELY PEOPLE. WE SEE THAT BY HIS GOING ABOUT THROUGH ALL OF THE CITIES AND ALL OF THE VILLAGES. WE SEE THAT FURTHER BY HIS HEALING EVERY SICKNESS, HEALING EVERY DISEASE. WE ALSO SEE THAT BY HIS TEACHING AND HIS PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD. ALL OF THOSE THINGS THAT JESUS ACTIVELY PURSUED, IT WAS BECAUSE OF HIS INTEREST IN PEOPLE. IN OUR TEXT HERE, MATTHEW 9:36, THAT INTEREST, IT REALLY COMES TO THE FORE WHEN WE READ THERE THAT, SEEING THE MULTITUDES, HE WAS MOVED WITH COMPASSION ON THEM, BECAUSE THEY FAINTED AND WERE SCATTERED ABROAD AS SHEEP NOT HAVING A SHEPHERD. THAT COMPASSION THAT MATTHEW, HE BRINGS OUT FOR US AND HE ENUMERATES TO US, THAT COMPASSION SHOWS WHERE OUR LORD'S INTEREST, WHERE IT LAY. AND IT LAY OF COURSE WITH PEOPLE. IN JOHN 2:25, JOHN MADE AN INTERESTING STATEMENT ABOUT JESUS. HE SAID THERE, AND HE NEEDED NOT THAT ANY SHOULD TESTIFY OF MAN; FOR HE KNEW WHAT WAS IN MAN. THAT'S A GREAT VERSE TO REMEMBER AS YOU TRACE JESUS THROUGH THE DAILY ACTIVITIES OF HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY. THE WAY THAT HE INTERACTED WITH CERTAIN PEOPLE IN CERTAIN SCENARIOS, SOME OF THE STATEMENTS, SOMETIMES UNEXPECTED STATEMENTS THAT JESUS WOULD MAKE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS, THEY MAKE MORE SENSE NOW IN OUR MINDS AS PEOPLE WHEN WE UNDERSTAND JOHN 2:25. JESUS COULD LOOK INTO THE VERY HEART OF AN INDIVIDUAL. HE DIDN'T NEED YOU TO TELL HIM ABOUT THAT PERSON'S HEART. HE DIDN'T EVEN NEED THAT PERSON HIMSELF OR HERSELF TO EXPOUND HIS OR HER HEART TO JESUS. HE DIDN'T NEED THAT. HE COULD LOOK RIGHT INTO THEIR HEARTS. HE KNEW WHAT WAS IN MAN. IT'S A POWERFUL THING. AND SO WITH THAT AS A BACKDROP NOW, MATTHEW 9:36, SEEING THE MULTITUDES, HE WAS MOVED WITH COMPASSION ON THEM, THAT THEY FAINTED, THEY WERE SCATTERED ABROAD, AND THEY'RE DESCRIBED AS SHEEP NOT HAVING A SHEPHERD. I WANT TO SUBMIT TO YOU THAT THOSE DESCRIPTIONS IN MATTHEW 9:36, THAT THEY'RE DEALING WITH THE SPIRITUAL NEEDS AND THE SPIRITUAL DESTITUTION OF THESE PEOPLE. JESUS COULD LOOK RIGHT ON THAT. NOW HERE'S A POINT IN OUR LESSON WHERE IT WILL BE HELPFUL FOR US TO DRAW A CONTRAST BETWEEN JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD, AND THE PHARISEES, THE SCRIBES AND THE PHARISEES TOGETHER BASICALLY LOOKED UPON IN THAT DAY AS THE RELIGIOUS TEACHERS AND THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS. GO WITH ME TO MATTHEW CHAPTER 23, AND LET'S NOTICE TWO VERSES REGARDING THE SCRIBES AND THE PHARISEES. FIRST OF ALL, IN MATTHEW 23:4, JESUS SAID OF THESE PEOPLE, FOR THEY BIND HEAVY BURDENS, AND GRIEVOUS TO BE BORNE, AND LAY THEM ON MEN'S SHOULDERS; BUT THEY THEMSELVES WILL NOT MOVE THEM WITH ONE OF THEIR FINGERS. AND SO HERE WE LEARN OF THESE SO-CALLED RELIGIOUS TEACHERS AND LEADERS, THAT THEY WERE BAD ABOUT BINDING HEAVY SPIRITUAL AND MORAL BURDENS ON THEIR STUDENTS, ON THEIR HEARERS; AND YET THEY THEMSELVES, THEY WOULD NOT LIFT A FINGER TO HELP OUT THOSE INDIVIDUALS WITH THEIR OWN BURDENS; OR MAYBE THE IDEA COULD BE THAT THEY WILL NOT EVEN APPLY ALL OF THOSE THINGS TO THEMSELVES. THAT'S A POSSIBILITY AS WELL. AND SO THAT'S CERTAINLY NOT AN EFFECTIVE TEACHER. IT'S DEFINITELY NOT A COMPASSIONATE SHEPHERD AS WE SEE THERE IN MATTHEW 23:4. NOW MOVE DOWN WITH ME TO MATTHEW 23:13, BUT WOE UNTO YOU, SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, HYPOCRITES! FOR YE SHUT UP THE KINGDOM OF

HEAVEN AGAINST MEN. FOR YE NEITHER GO IN YOURSELVES, NEITHER SUFFER YE OR ALLOW OTHERS THAT ARE ENTERING TO GO IN. NOW, IN THIS CONTEXT OF MATTHEW 9, THAT STATEMENT WE JUST READ IN MATTHEW 23:13 MAKES A LOT OF SENSE, BECAUSE EARLIER IN MATTHEW 9 YOU CAN READ ABOUT HOW THE PHARISEES WERE OPPOSING JESUS AND EVEN SLANDERING JESUS, AS YOU CAN READ THERE IN MATTHEW 9:32-34. AND SO PICTURE THIS MULTITUDE OF PEOPLE WHO ARE DRAWN TO JESUS. THEY'RE INTERESTED IN JESUS, THEY'RE LEARNING FROM JESUS, AND YET THE PHARISEES ARE DOING WHAT THEY CAN TO UNDERMINE HIS EFFORTS TO SLANDEROUSLY MISREPRESENT HIM AND TO DO ALL THEY CAN TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM FOLLOWING JESUS. WELL, THAT'S MATTHEW 23:13. THE PHARISEES THEMSELVES, THEY WERE REFUSING THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, THEY WEREN'T WANTING TO GO INTO THE KINGDOM; AND THEY WERE EVEN NOT ALLOWING OTHERS WHO WERE STRIVING TO ENTER, THEY WERE DOING ALL THEY COULD TO IMPEDE OR HINDER THEM. WHAT PITIABLE SHEPHERDS. HOW TERRIBLE THOSE PHARISEES AND SCRIBES TREATED THE PEOPLE WHO WERE LOOKING TO THEM FOR INSTRUCTION, AND YET THEY WERE NOT GETTING WHAT THEY NEEDED. AND THAT'S WHY JESUS LOOKED UPON THE MULTITUDES WITH COMPASSION AND HE DESCRIBED THEM AS SHEEP HAVING NO SHEPHERD. NOW, WITH THIS STARK CONTRAST, YOU'RE READY FOR MATTHEW 11. LOOK AT MATTHEW 11:28. AND NOW WE CAN BETTER APPRECIATE WHY JESUS SAID WHAT HE SAID. MATTHEW 11:28, JESUS STOOD AND HE TOLD THE MASSES, COME UNTO ME, ALL YE THAT LABOR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST. TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU, AND LEARN OF ME; FOR I AM MEEK AND LOWLY IN HEART. AND YE SHALL FIND REST UNTO YOUR SOULS; FOR MY YOKE IS EASY AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT. THE COMPASSION OF JESUS THAT WE READ ABOUT IN MATTHEW 9:36, THAT COMPASSION IS COMING OUT IN HIS OWN VERY WORDS HERE IN MATTHEW 11:28-30. AND THAT LOVE, THAT COMPASSION, THAT INTEREST IN PEOPLE STANDS IN CONTRAST WITH THE ABUSIVE AND OPPRESSIVE WAYS OF THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES. SO WHEN WE LOOK THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS, WE SEE PEOPLE; AND HOPEFULLY WE ARE MOVED AT THEIR PLIGHT. WE ARE MOVED WITH COMPASSION, AND WE'RE NOT ONLY SEEING AS JESUS SAW NOW, BUT WE'RE LOOKING AS JESUS LOOKED UPON THEM. AND THAT SHOULD BE THE GOAL. POINT NUMBER THREE. WE'VE CONSIDERED HIS INITIATIVE, HIS ACTIVITY, WE'VE CONSIDERED HIS INTEREST WHICH WAS MANIFESTED IN HIS COMPASSION AND THE WAY THAT HE REGARDED THE PEOPLE. NUMBER THREE, LOOKING THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS, I WANT US TO SEE HIS INSTRUCTION. AND PARTICULARLY IN THIS REGARD, MATTHEW 9, WE'RE LOOKING AT VERSES 37 AND 38 ONCE MORE. VERSE 37, THEN SAITH HE UNTO HIS DISCIPLES. NOW, THESE ARE NOT THE MULTITUDES, PER SAY; THESE ARE THE APOSTLES AND PERHAPS OTHER DISCIPLES THAT WERE FOLLOWING JESUS, BUT ESPECIALLY THE APOSTLES AT THIS POINT. HE SAID TO THEM PARTICULARLY, THE HARVEST TRULY IS PLENTEOUS. LOOKING OUT UPON THOSE MULTITUDES, JESUS SAW AN ABUNDANCE OF SOULS. THE PROBLEM WOULD NOT BE A LACK OF SOULS, IT WOULD NOT BE A LACK OF NEED. THE HARVEST TRULY IS PLENTEOUS, BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW. HERE'S HIS INSTRUCTION: PRAY YE THEREFORE THE LORD OF THE HARVEST, THAT HE WILL SEND FORTH LABORERS INTO HIS HARVEST. THE INSTRUCTION OF JESUS ON THIS OCCASION FOR HIS PERSONAL DISCIPLES WAS YOU NEED TO PRAY. YOU NEED TO PRAY, ASKING THE LORD OF THE HARVEST TO SEND FORTH MORE HELP. WE'RE GOING TO NEED MORE HELP. THE NEED IS SO GREAT, IT'S SO EXTENSIVE THAT WE NEED MORE LABORERS. IN GIVING THIS INSTRUCTION, NO DOUBT JESUS MUST HAVE BEEN DESIRING TO SHAPE THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE APOSTLES EVEN MORE, TO HELP TRAIN THEIR EYES TO SEE

PEOPLE AND THUS TO SEE SOULS, TO TRAIN THEIR HEARTS AND THEIR EYES TOGETHER TO BE ATTUNED TO THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE. PEOPLE IS THE WORK OF THE CHURCH. PEOPLE WAS THE WORK OF OUR LORD. LOOK AT JOHN 4:35. ON THAT OCCASION, HE SAID TO THE APOSTLES, SAY NOT YE THERE ARE YET FOUR MONTHS, AND THEN COMETH HARVEST; BEHOLD, I SAY UNTO YOU, LIFT UP YOUR EYES, LOOK DELIBERATELY, AND LOOK ON THE FIELDS, FOR THEY ARE WHITE ALREADY TO HARVEST. SEE, THAT EMPHASIS ON PERSPECTIVE, THAT EMPHASIS ON SEEING WHAT IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU, SEEING THE NEED. AND ANOTHER PASSAGE, 2ND THESSALONIANS 3:1, FINALLY BRETHREN, PRAY FOR US, THAT THE WORD OF THE LORD MAY HAVE FREE COURSE AND BE GLORIFIED EVEN AS IT IS WITH YOU. AND SO IN THIS INSTRUCTION OF JESUS IN WHICH HE TOLD THE APOSTLES TO PRAY, PRAY FOR MORE LABORERS, WE'RE GOING TO NEED MORE HELP, HE WAS AT ONCE HELPING TO SHAPE THEIR PERSPECTIVE, HELPING THEM TO BEGIN LOOKING AND SEEING NEED AS JESUS OBSERVED AND AS JESUS NOTICED NEED; BUT HE'S ALSO GETTING THEM TO PRAY AND PRAY ACTIVELY. THERE IN 2ND THESSALONIANS 3:1, WE SEE THAT WE CAN PRAY FOR THE SUCCESS OF EFFORTS. WE CAN PRAY THAT THE WORD OF THE LORD HAS FREE COURSE, THAT DOORS ARE OPENED AND THAT PEOPLE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO SUPPRESS IT OR HINDER THE TRUTH FROM GOING FORWARD. AND WE CAN EVEN PRAY FOR PEOPLE'S RECEPTION OF IT. WE CAN PRAY THAT THE WORD OF THE LORD WOULD BE GLORIFIED; AND IT'S GLORIFIED WHEN MEN AND WOMEN RESPOND TO IT IN OBEDIENCE AND SUBMISSION. WE CAN PRAY FOR ALL OF THESE THINGS. BUT AS WE WRAP UP THIS STUDY TODAY, I WANT US TO REALIZE THAT PRAYER WORKS. PRAYER WORKS. A MATTER OF MONTHS LATER - ON THIS OCCASION, JESUS WAS PREPARING ABOUT 12 MEN, MATTHEW 9; BUT MONTHS LATER, AS RECORDED IN LUKE 10, JESUS IS PREPARING A GROUP OR SENDING FORTH A GROUP ON ANOTHER PHASE OF THE LIMITED COMMISSION; AND NOTICE THERE, INSTEAD OF HAVING 12, THEY NOW HAVE 70. LOOK AT LUKE 10:1. AFTER THESE THINGS THE LORD APPOINTED OTHER SEVENTY ALSO, AND SENT THEM TWO AND TWO BEFORE HIS FACE INTO EVERY CITY AND PLACE, WHITHER HE HIMSELF WOULD COME.