

This week...

Scripture: Matthew 9:36-38

Monday Matthew 9:35 “*Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.*”

Think about the extent of the ministry of Jesus and His disciples. Where did they go, and what did they do? Compare this with Matthew 28:18-20. As long as the church sets its priorities and tasks to match those of Jesus and His early followers we will experience similar results. When the church chooses to no longer **GO**, teach, preach, and minister we will see paralysis and death come upon the church. Spend time in prayer regarding your own activity. Does your life reflect today what was happening in these verses 2,000 years ago? Are there changes you need to make to better reflect His command and example?

Tuesday Matthew 9:36 “*When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them*”

Jesus was constantly going and seeing the crowds. Once He began His ministry it was impossible for Him to travel from town to town without drawing much attention. Why did the crowds come out? Many came to have physical needs met, but His compassion also drew them. People today long for compassion, which is in short supply. Consider your impact on crowds seeking compassion.

Wednesday Matthew 9:36 “*he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*”

We express compassion as “from the heart” or “heartfelt”. The ancients described it as coming from their inmost

parts, literally the spleen or intestines. It was a very deep emotion. Jesus expressed His compassion because they were harassed (*faint, loosened, melted, broken up*) and helpless (*scattered, cast down, tossed aside*), like sheep without a shepherd. When have you felt melted, broken up, cast down, or tossed aside? Though we try to mask our hurts and despair with the “stuff” of our modern age, there exist those hurts and troubles that can only be soothed by genuine compassion from a shepherd. Who do you know that would benefit from your compassion in Christ?

Thursday Matthew 9:37 “*Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.’*”

What harvest is Jesus talking about? What makes it plentiful? Why are there few workers? How does this fit into our context today?

Friday Matthew 9:38 “*‘Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’*”

How involved is our church in the harvest? What is the evidence (or lack thereof) of our harvest work? Are we asking the Lord to send out workers? What harvest field are we concerned about and praying for? Where will the workers of this harvest field be found?