

A HEART FOR THE HARVEST

Matthew 9:35-38 | January 1, 2023

Context

- 8:1-4 | Jesus heals a leper
- 8:5-13 | Jesus heals a centurion's servant
- 8:14-17 | Jesus heals Peter's MIL (and others)

- 8:18-21 | The _____ to follow Jesus

- 8:23-27 | Jesus heals the storm
- 8:28-34 | Jesus heals two men with demons
- 9:1-8 | Jesus heals (and forgives) a paralytic

- 9:9-17 | The _____ to follow Jesus

- 9:18-26 | Jesus heals a dead girl (and sick woman)
- 9:27-31 | Jesus heals two blind men
- 9:32-34 | Jesus heals a mute man (demon-possessed)

- 9:35-38 | The _____ to follow Jesus

Matthew 4:23 "And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people."

Matthew 9:35 "And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction."

I. A Heart of Compassion (35-36)

A. What was Jesus' compassion?

“Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.” Matthew 14:13–14

“Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, ‘I have compassion on the crowd because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way.’” Matthew 15:32

“And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.”” Luke 7:13–14

“When Christ saw the people in misery, his bowels yearned within him; the works of grace and mercy in Christ, they come from his bowels first...whatsoever Christ did...he did it out of love, and grace, and mercy...he did it inwardly from his very bowels.”

- Richard Sibbes, *“The Church’s Riches by Christ’s Poverty”*

B. What did Jesus see?

“harassed”

“helpless”

“like sheep without a shepherd”

Numbers 27:12-23

Ezekiel 34:1-31

II. A Heart of Intercession (37-38)

A. What's the Nature of the Harvest?

“the harvest is plentiful”

Jeremiah 51:33; Joel 3:13; Revelation 14:14-20

John 4:31-38

“the laborers are few”

B. What's the Lord's Method?

“pray earnestly”

“send out laborers”

“The world is dying, the grave is filling, hell is boasting, and yet you have the gospel; can it be that you do not care to win souls, do not care whether men are damned or saved! The Lord wake us from this stony-hearted barbarity to our fellow-men, and make us yearn over them, care about them, and pray about them, and work for them, till the Lord shall arise and send forth labourers into his harvest!”

Spurgeon, C.H., "Harvest Men Wanted"