



Sunday, August 1, 2021

Paul Davis

Intro to Matthew 9:35-38

As Christians, our ambition for all of life should be to think Jesus's thoughts after Him. As Paul Davis reminded us on Sunday, what Jesus thinks should affect what we think. Jesus, according to this passage, looked on the crowds with compassion. This compassion was not merely a sympathetic feeling for the people because they were sick—though they were. This compassion was a deep understanding of the pain the people were experiencing. At the heart of their pain was not a sickness or disease, it was sin. They were both perpetrators and victims of sin.

Jesus knows our pain. He knows the causes of it, and He knows the ultimate remedy is to know Him. So, He turned to His disciples to pray that God (the Lord of the Harvest) would send out people into the crowds that would minister to them and teach them about the kingdom of heaven. The very next thing Jesus does is call His apostles, which means "sent ones." He then sends them out with the message of the kingdom, which was accompanied by signs of the kingdom (healing the sick, raising the dead, cleansing lepers, casting out demons). Jesus involves His disciples in His work of redemption, and that pattern continues today as the Church is sent in the Great Commission to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom to the ends of the earth.

Context

Matthew 9 serves as a bookend of Jesus's ministry in Galilee. In Matthew 4:23, we read that Jesus began His ministry of teaching, preaching and healing in Galilee. His teaching is summarized in the monumental Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5-7). His healing ministry is summarized in various episodes around Galilee (chapters 8-9). The section concludes with the same summary statement in 9:35.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Matthew 9:35-38

Key Ideas

- 1) The crowds were harassed and helpless.
- 2) They were like animals being hunted by predators.
- 3) Jesus looked on them with compassion.
- 4) Compassion is deep understanding of another's pain coupled with taking action to relieve that pain.
- 5) In His compassion, Jesus turned to His disciples to help.
- 6) God, in His sovereign plan, has chosen to include His disciples in the work of redemption.
- 7) We ought to pray for workers to go into the harvest.

Discuss

- 1) How do you tend to view difficult people in your life?
- 2) How would you describe the difference between the compassion that Jesus shows and the kind of sympathy or empathy that exists out in the world?
- 3) What's your reaction to the statement, "God, in His sovereign plan, has chosen to include His disciples in the work of redemption"?
- 4) What do you think your "next step in missions" might be?
- 5) How does a church like ours maintain a commitment to missions generation after generation without losing focus?