

## The Ministry of Compassion; The Harvest is Plentiful!

Matthew 9:36-38

<sup>36</sup> *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*

- Compassion: Jesus was driven with compassion. He often left his original agenda on the table in order to heal those around him. He saw the "harassed and helpless." And allowed his motive to be Love as opposed to judgment.

John 3:17

<sup>17</sup> *For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*

- Jesus comes into the world with an acceptance mindset, one that reaches out and saves, but does not condemn.
- In this time of crisis, many people will say, "the sky is falling", maybe raise a handbook about Eschatology; they look at the world from a position of Nihilism. This mindset leaves the unsaved to be condemned. That's not what Jesus wants. His heart is "not to condemn the world but to save it." Our approach should be that as well.

As 1 Corinthians 2:15-16 says:

*"Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."*

- We approach the broken with a heart of compassion and not condemnation.

Philippians 2:6-8

*"Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."*

- And this humility is the same way He approached people.
- Jesus spent time with the most lowly of people. He also spent time with people that Pharisees considered base, lowly, barbaric, Philistine, and scruffy looking nerf hurters

Jesus, being the very nature of God, has the right to be above these people. But he truly understands where the lowly come from. He knows their need for love.

Jesus spent time with:

- Prostitutes, or rather young women and men that been exploited for their bodies by others or circumstances.
- Drunkards, or rather I should say men and women trapped in their crippling addictions, needing resources and freedom.
- Tax collectors, men who were oppressed by a foreign government, taught that self-interest is most important even if it goes against your sympathetic nature.
- The sick, the ones with contagious diseases, those with leprosy, outcast from society.

“We cannot look at the people in His time and have compassion for them when we look at the individuals in ours and show contempt.”

Let your compassion arise:

Who are the young ladies and men being exploited in our time?

Who are the individuals with crippling addictions in your community?

Who are the individuals that have been so heavy influenced by culture that can't let go of deception?

Who are the sick in our time?

The harvest is plenty!

“You see the harvest is plenty, but those we gather are not to be cut down by the sickle of Judgement or the syth of hypocrisy. But to be gathered by the arms of kindness and held with patient forbearance.”

I've had three separate individuals talk with me in the last month. About wanting to go to church. Individuals that have asked to go to Church. What they are really asking is to know Jesus, but they don't know that, yet.

- Co-worker
- Hairstylist
- High school friend – Jesus

God is chasing individuals their entire life. And will provide opportunities for us to speak into people's lives. We can create relationships with those individuals.

We are to be His hands and feet.