

Study Questions

A Heart for the Harvest

Matthew 9:35 – 10:1
Pastor Jeff Petersen

Opening Discussion

1. Share with each other how the “Harvest” video presentation impacted you. What specific parts touched your heart? Why?

Bible Study

1. Read Matthew 9:35-38. In verse 36, the people in the crowd are described as being “distressed and downcast.” What do these words imply? What is the need Matthew is trying to capture in his description of the people?
2. Were the people back then different from people today? If not, do we see people in the same way as Jesus is described as seeing them here in Matthew 9? Why or why not?
3. In verse 36 we’re told that when Jesus saw the multitudes, “He felt compassion for them...” What do you think Matthew saw in Jesus that he was trying to describe and capture for his readers?
4. In Biblical language this word for compassion goes beyond pity. While pity evokes feelings of sorrow and a sense of empathy for another, this concept of compassion implies being moved to action. What would the difference have looked like in Jesus life? In other words, what happened because he was moved with compassion rather than simply touched with pity?
5. What does that difference look like in your life? Share some examples of times when you have felt pity for another. Contrast those with examples of times when you have been moved to action by a sense of conviction born out of true compassion.
6. In light of the context of verse 36, why does Jesus share the admonition that He does in verses 37-38?
7. Jesus described the harvest as being plentiful. What did that mean? Do we typically see a plentiful spiritual harvest in front of us? Why or why not?
8. Jesus indicates that the great need is not for more people to be ready for harvest but for more workers to be involved in bringing in the harvest. Why is this distinction important for us to realize? How should it impact our lives today?
9. What is the first step in solving this dilemma (v. 38)? What was Jesus’ second step toward bringing in the harvest (10:1 and following)?

Application

1. How are you personally currently involved in helping bring in the harvest? Here in Lincoln? Among the billions of unreached people around the world?
2. What “next step” would you like to take to be more involved in helping with the harvest?