"The Harvest is Plenteous"

("A HEART FOR THE MULTITUDES")
Matthew 9:35-38
10/8/2017

INTRODUCTION: V. 35

***Christ had compassion on the lost.**
(He felt their sorrow, He cared, and He encourages you to care)

I. The Occasion for Christ's Compassion (v. 36a)
(*"When He saw the multitudes")*

A. He saw the real needs of people

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II. The Reasons for Christ's Compassion (v. 36b)

A. He saw hopeless people with no strength
("fainted")

B. He saw helpless people with no protection
("scattered abroad")

III. The Response of Christ's Compassion (v. 37-38)
(*"Then saith He. . . the harvest truly is plenteous. . . pray ye")*

A. He shared His burden (v. 37)

B. He urged for prayer (v. 38)

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With all of the Hurricanes sweeping our part of the world lately, it has brought out the worst (looting) and best of people (helping others in need)

Do you have a heart? A heart for people? A heart that breaks for those in spiritual bondage and headed for eternal ruin and misery?

Christ's public ministry was three-fold:

1) Teaching - to instruct or indoctrinate in the matter of righteousness

2) Preaching - to proclaim or herald the truth
to cry out the good news about the Kingdom and the need to be born again to enter
it (Jn. 3:1ff)

3) Healing - to perform miraculous cures so as to be a sign of Christ's power and authority

Two key words in Verse 35 are the words *"all"* and *"every"*.

"All" = points to the fact that no one is outside of Christ's concern. Christ is impartial; unprejudiced; He shows no favoritism. He loves all and desires to reach all. Although Jesus desired the message to go first to the Jews, He intended it to reach the world - Acts 1:8; Mk. 16:15; Mt. 28:20.

"Every"= points to the fact that nothing is outside of Christ's control. Christ is sovereign - has total power. There was no sickness that was too great for Him. The Great Physician was not stumped by any disease. No problem was (or is) too impossible for Him. His power knows no limits! He is omnipotent!

***Christ had Compassion on the Lost**
(He felt their sorrow, He cared, and He encourages you to care)

V. 36

"He was moved with compassion" - (aorist passive - from "splanchna"). The word refers to being moved emotionally on the insides; to feel sympathetic in one's person for someone to the point that it upsets your insides - your stomach.

[The noun form is often translated "bowels" referring to literal intestines - Acts 1:8; and to inward affection - II Cor. 7:15; Phil. 1:8, 2:1; Col. 3:12; Philemon 7]

Jesus was constantly moved with compassion toward others:

--Toward the multitudes who were spiritually (Mk. 6:34), and physically (Mt. 14:14) sick

--Toward the multitudes who were physically hungry (Mt. 15:32)

--Toward the blind (Mt. 20:34)

--Toward the unclean leper (Mk. 1:41)

--Toward the widow whose son died (Lk. 7:13-14)

Our Lord not only felt their sorrow, He did something about it!

Mark 6:34 - *"And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things."*

Christ, being *"meek and lowly in heart"* (Mt. 11:29) is *"touched with the feeling of our infirmities"* (Heb. 4:15).

We are to be like our Savior (I Pet. 2:21) in that we feel the plight of others.

It is often easiest to have such feelings of compassion toward your own immediate family and closest friends. However, to have the same heart as Jesus, we need both the same compassion the Good Samaritan had on a stranger (Lk. 10:33) and that which the Father had for His prodigal son (Lk. 15:20).

I. The Occasion for Christ's Compassion (v. 36a)
(*"when He saw the multitudes"*)

"When He saw. . . He was moved" = what Christ saw with His eyes affected His heart!

*What Christ saw affected His heart.

Jeremiah (the "weeping Prophet" - EX: Jer. 9:1), when he saw the plight of Israel said, *"Mine eye affecteth mine heart"* (Lam. 3:51).

When we see things from God's perspective, we see true needs, and have genuine burdens for people.

The disciples were with Jesus and saw the same crowd, but evidently did not see the same need.

A. He saw the real needs of people

Jesus was moved with compassion because:

1) He saw the true needs of people (their spiritual needs)

2) He saw the eternal destiny

We too often view the masses we rub shoulders with as obstructions in our way, worthless, fleshly carnage.

Our hearts are often cold and unmoved because of:

--Pre-occupation (too busy worrying about our own matters in this life)

--Callousness due to sin (Mt. 24:12)

--Lack of spiritual insight

Our eyes often lack spiritual 20/20 vision.

SEE Acts 20:20

Paul's compassion on the lost (Acts 20:19).

Many Christians are quicker to cry over the death of a dog or over a tear-jerker TV program, than over lost souls perishing.

B. He saw the real <u>need</u> for <u>laborers</u> (v. 37-38)

No one will see their need to work (laborers) until they see the need of the work (People).

Most who do not witness, are oblivious to the need!

What causes Christians to not see the need? Basically, spiritual insensitivity, caused by not reading the Bible; worldly distractions; lesser priority preoccupations;

II. The Reasons for Christ's Compassion (v. 36b)
(*"because they fainted, and were scattered abroad"*)

A. He saw hopeless people with no strength
(*"fainted"*)

"Fainted" = to be spiritually weary.

*People are weary of religion.

Israel as a people were harassed and bewildered by those who should have taught them (SEE Ezek. 34:1ff)

*People are weary of sin and its effects. (cp. Heb. 12:3)

B. He saw helpless people with no protection
(*"scattered abroad")*

"Scattered abroad" = the word describes sheep that are downcast, wounded and lying helpless without the presence and help of a shepherd.

Christ wept over unprotected Jerusalem because of her rebelliousness and refusal to come to Him (Mt. 23:37).

*"**Sheep having no shepherd"*** - Christ is the shepherd the world needs (Jn. 10:11).

III. The <u>Response</u> of Christ's Compassion (v. 37-38)
(*"Then saith He. . .The harvest truly is plenteous. . . pray ye"*)

A. He <u>shared</u> His <u>burden</u> (v. 37)

The emphasis in verses 36-38 is on the word *"multitudes"* (cp. *"plenteous"* 37)

The multitudes of humanity are likened unto a **"harvest"** because people, like a field of wheat, are:

1. Valuable (they have great worth)
2. Temporal (the time to harvest is now; delay is fatal! Cp. John 4:31-38)
3. Plentiful

The population explosion (the world's population growth) -

*<u>250</u> million people populated the earth at the time of Christ (this equaled the population of the USA alone in 1994, which presently has 325 million in 2017, but expected to go over 400 million by 2,050).

<u>World Population</u>:
In 1650 - 500 million (world population)
1800 - 1 billion
1930 - 2 billion
1960 - 3 billion
1975 - 4 billion
1981 - 4 1/2 billion
2000 – 6 billion
2015 – 7.4 billion
2017 – 7.6 billion
Projection: 10 billion by 2050

The world's population growth is slowing, according to a new 2017 United Nations report, but the number of people living on Earth will still approach 10 billion by the year 2050.

The document tallies the current population at 7.6 billion people, up from 7.4 billion just two years ago.

This year's count means the world added roughly 1 billion people over the last dozen years. It will take 13 years to add the next billion, according to the

report. The planet is expected to have 8.6 billion people in 2030, and 9.8 billion by 2050.

How much does the world population increase each day?
In terms of net gain (births minus deaths), we are adding over 200,000 people to this planet every day, or 140 people every minute (8,400 people every hour). That equals over 70 million more people every year, about the same as the combined populations of California, Texas, and Washington.

The 2017 United Nations report says China remains the most populous country, with 1.4 billion inhabitants – or 19 percent of the world's population. But India trails close behind at 1.3 billion people, and in just seven years, is expected to surpass China in population.

"Sixty per cent of the world's people live in Asia (4.5 billion), 17 per cent in Africa (1.3 billion), 10 per cent in Europe (742 million), 9 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean (646 million), and the remaining 6 per cent in Northern America (361 million) and Oceania (41 million)

Today we have 30 times as many people to reach as when Christ said that the harvest was plenteous! (cp. Lk. 10:2)

Florida (20.61 million) is the 3rd most populous state in the USA (behind California (39 Million) and Texas (28 million). Ahead of New York (19.75 million) (For information contact the Census Bureau)

Florida "The Sunshine State", is adding more than 1,000 people a day

The global population is getting older: The number of people 65 and older is projected to triple by mid-century, from 531 million in 2010 to 1.5 billion in 2050. In the U.S., the population of seniors is expected to slightly more than double, from 41 to 86 million. (http://www.pewresearch.org)

Florida has been called "God's Waiting Room" As people live out their last days in the Sunshine State. Over 1 million people die every year in our state. 2,740 every day. 114 per hour. Almost 2 per minute.

Among the world population over 155,000 people die every day. 1.8 people go into eternity every second.

Every second of every day, 4.2 people are born and 1.8 people die.

Over 6,000 people will go into eternity during today's service and message.

Christ called His disciples' attention to the harvest being "white" (ripe) in John

4:35.

B. He urged for prayer

"Therefore" - the urgent appeal to pray is because of the enormity of the task and the scarcity of laborers (v. 37)

Don't pray this prayer unless you are willing to be an answer to that prayer. How could anyone sincerely pray for laborers if they themselves are not willing to be one? It's inconsistent (even hypocritical) to pray for God to move others to do what you will not allow Him to move you to do

[NOTE: The disciples not only prayed, they went! See chapter 10 in which Jesus sent them out]

"That He will send" - God must move the hearts of His servants; He must send them.

"How shall they preach except they be sent (by God)?" (Rom. 10:15)

True compassion will drive you to your knees!

Ps. 34:17 - *"The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth"* God knows a burdened heart!

CONCLUSION:

Enroll in our Personal Evangelism Course!

Luke 19:41-42 - And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,
Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.

Is there no cause to weep?

No weeping = no reaping
Psalm 126:6 - He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed,
shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Compassion is the key to pulling men out of the fire
Jude 22-23 - And of some have compassion, making a difference:
And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

--"Compassion making a difference" - lit. have compassion (pity) on those who are wavering or doubting.

In Luke 15, the Lord Jesus gives an illustration of one person who repents and turns to the true and living God. (the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, the Lost Son).

Jesus said: “Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.” (Luke 15:10)

Never underestimate the value of 1 soul.

Each one Reach one!