

## What Moves You?

Matt. 9:35-38 ...But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

There are many harassed, oppressed people in this world in general, and in our worlds in particular. They are scattered, disconnected and uncovered, as sheep without a shepherd. But they don't have to stay this way. Jesus made it very clear that there is hope for them, and what needs to happen.

He said that the harvest is plentiful (v. 37). He calls them "the harvest." This means there are multitudes of people that are ready to be reaped for the Kingdom of God, but they're not coming in.

What's the problem? According to Jesus, the problem is that the laborers are few. Like the priest and the Levite in the parable of the Good Samaritan, they pass on the other side when they should have been willing to get involved with the robbed, beaten and wounded man on the road to Jericho.

Jesus then said to pray the Lord of the harvest. He is the Lord of these unharvested multitudes. He came for them. He died for them. He purchased their salvation with His blood, yet they're still unreached. It requires the Lord of the harvest sending laborers into the harvest. Notice that laborers need to go to them. They're not coming to us.

But it requires something. Nothing will change until the laborers follow the example of Jesus, the Lord of the harvest.

### 1. First, He saw them. (v. 36)

We have to see the people. We have to be willing to notice them. Too often we look past people. In Luke 10:33, the Samaritan saw the beaten and wounded man. He noticed him. He didn't avoid him as so many of us do today regarding the very harvest we're to reach.

Jesus doesn't look past people. He sees them. He notices them. He sees what they're going through. We must ask the Lord to open our eyes so we see them the way He does.

In John 4:34-37 Jesus said "Do you not say, 'there are still four months and then comes the harvest?' I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest." (v. 35)

The idea here is that in the natural, people of that region assumed there were still another four months until the wheat harvest, and that this was not the time for reaping. That may have been true for the wheat harvest, but He was not talking about wheat. He was talking about souls.

Too often we delay. We put off our obedience, assuming that people aren't interested or ready to respond. Maybe a later time they will be. Maybe later we'll be better prepared. Jesus is saying that's wrong. The fields are white for harvest right now, not later. Now is the time to reap. He is the Lord of the harvest, and He will use us now if we open our eyes.

2. He was moved with compassion for them. (Matt.10:36)

He didn't just see their need. He felt their need. He knew their condition and it affected him emotionally. Likewise, we will never be able to make any meaningful difference until we find out what moves us. Something will move you, and you have to know what it is.

The Samaritan not only saw the robbed and wounded man, but he had compassion on him (Luke 10:33). So many tend to wander without purpose because they haven't discovered what moves them. Unless we're emotionally engaged, we are unlikely to get involved or stay involved.

In John 4:34 Jesus said my food is to do the will of Him who sent him, and to finish His work. When we're busy doing what moves us, we will sacrifice for it. If we're not moved by it, any excuse will do to avoid it.

We have to ask the Lord of the harvest to open our hearts to feel what He feels for the weary and wounded harvest He's called us to reach. Little will happen, either for us or for them, until we're moved with compassion.

### 3. He spoke to them. (v. 35)

In verse 35 we see that Jesus taught in their synagogues and preached the gospel of the kingdom. For us, this means that we have to come to where they are and speak to them about the good news in a way they can understand. This may be people in our own families, our friends, our neighbors, our co-workers, classmates, or anyone else that crosses our path, or that the Lord sends us to.

Opportunities come all the time. When they do, we have to deliver the message we've been given for them. You already have a story. You have a testimony. You've learned something about Christ. We have to ask the Lord to open our mouths and tell it in obedience so the people can hear and believe and be reached.

### 4. He served them. (v. 35)

The same verse tells us that Jesus healed every sickness and disease among the people. But it wasn't limited to Jesus. In the next chapter, 10:1, He called the twelve and gave them power to cast out evil spirits and heal all kinds of sickness and disease. In verses 7-8 He told them to speak something and to do something.

Some of us have speaking gifts. Some of us have serving gifts. Some of us have both, but none of us have neither.

I Pet. 4:11 This verse confirms that some have speaking gifts and others have serving gifts. We have to know what moves us, to know the ones He's sending us to, and to know the gifts and abilities He's given us. He's expecting a return on His investment in us, so don't bury your talent in the ground, as in the parable of the talents in Matthew 25.

We will have to give an account, and He is looking for fruit. What have you done with what He's given you?

We must ask the Lord to open our hands so that we can serve people for their good and His glory. We have to be willing to serve the people with our gifts, to serve the ones who are oppressed, weary, scattered, disconnected, and ready to be reached so they can be delivered and set free.

We will never respond to the Lord of the harvest and become the servants He's called us to be until we open our eyes, open our hearts, open our mouths, and open our hands as laborers in His harvest.