

Bible Study
Matthew 9:35-10:8

Opening Question:

1. When have you been blessed by the ministry of others?
 - (a) Is it always preaching based or is there practical elements to ministry?

Read Matthew 9:35-10:8

Discussion Questions

1. Observation & reflection
 - (a) What is the tone of this passage? (ie stern, joyful, cautious etc)
 - (b) What word or idea stands out to you, what did you struggle to understand?
 - (c) What is the theme of the passage?
2. How is Matthew 28:19-20 similar to Matthew 9:35? What conclusion(s) are we to draw from this?
3. What is the role of a Shepherd?
4. What do we learn about the extend of Jesus' ministry from V35?
 - (a) What does ministry mean?
5. What are the three areas of Ministry that Jesus undertook?
 - (a) Define or describe these areas?
 - (b) How do they relate to each other?
 - (c) How did Jesus use ministry as a tool to reach others?
6. What in your mind is the mission of the church?
 - (a) What does this passage tell us it is?
7. How did Jesus respond when He looked at people?
 - (a) Why?
 - (b) Do we (collectively) see people through Jesus' eyes?
8. What does Christian compassion look like?
 - (a) Has it changed since Biblical times?
 - (b) Is it just for fellow believers?

9. Where are the edges of our community in need of Christian compassion?
 - (a) What are some concrete actions that our church community can take to exercise compassion that is active and not emotive?

10. Jesus identifies a problem using contrast. What is the problem that he identifies?
 - (a) What does this mean in today's context?
 - (b) Why is having few workers a problem?
 - (c) What is Jesus' solution to the problem?

11. From this passage what do you draw as the way ministry & mission should be funded?

12. How can we prepare for the Harvest?

Thought Points

- Leaders in Jesus' day had failed to fulfil their responsibilities as Shepherds.
- The good news that Jesus preached pertained to the coming kingdom of God promised in the Old Testament. Personal and national blessings are extended to Gentiles as well as Israel.
- The church is called to reflect the mission of Jesus; serving the weak, healing the sick, cleansing the unclean. It is to be about bringing others into the practice of the kingdom, wherein all people are treated with respect and dignity, all tables are open, all people are lifted up, and all are called to higher purpose.
- The word "compassion" is a strong word for an emotional response which always results in caring action.
- Being called to sharing the gospel is a generous gift to us.
- Share the gospel is the responsibility of all believers

Extra Reading

Ezekiel 3:5-11, Matthew 10:9-23, Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 16:25-28, John 21:15-19, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Revelation 3:15-22

Personal Reflection:

- Am I currently praying for other believers (Matthew 9:38)? If so, who am I praying for? What are my specific requests for these individuals? Will I begin to pray for these disciples to be thrust into the harvest? How can I creatively support and encourage these harvesters?