

## **Sent with Compassion (Matthew 9:35-10:8)**

### **Opening Prayer**

Lord Jesus, give us eyes to see people the way you see them. Teach us to receive your compassion, pray with dependence, and walk in your mission. Amen.

### **Read Matthew 9:35**

#### **Observe**

1. What three things does Matthew say Jesus was doing as he went through the cities and villages?
2. What does the phrase “gospel of the kingdom” make you think of?
3. Why do you think Matthew connects Jesus’ teaching, proclaiming, and healing together?

#### **Interpret**

4. What does this verse show us about the kind of kingdom Jesus brings?
5. Why is it important that Jesus does not separate words and deeds, truth and mercy, proclamation and healing?

#### **Reflect and Apply**

6. Where do you tend to separate things Jesus holds together? For example: truth from compassion, prayer from action, or teaching from mercy?
7. What would it look like for our church to both speak and show the good news of the kingdom?

### **Read Matthew 9:36**

#### **Observe**

8. What does Jesus see when he looks at the crowds?
9. What words does Matthew use to describe the condition of the crowds?
10. What image does Matthew use to describe them?

#### **Interpret**

11. What is the difference between simply seeing a crowd and seeing people the way Jesus sees them?

**The Way of Jesus**  
*Week 2 Discussion Guide*

12. Jesus sees the crowds as “harassed and helpless.” What kinds of weariness, confusion, or vulnerability do you see in people around you?
13. The phrase “sheep without a shepherd” has deep Old Testament background. What does that image suggest about what the people need?
14. What does this verse reveal about Jesus as the true Shepherd-King?

### **Reflect and Apply**

15. When you look at the people around you, what are you most likely to see first: problems, interruptions, threats, needs, annoyances, opportunities, or beloved people?
16. Who are the people in your life or community that may be “harassed and helpless” in ways you have not noticed?
17. How can we grow in Christlike compassion without becoming naïve about sin, evil, or real brokenness?

### **Read Matthew 9:37-38**

#### **Observe**

18. What new image does Jesus use after describing the crowds as sheep without a shepherd?
19. What does Jesus say is plentiful?
20. What does Jesus say is lacking?
21. What does Jesus tell the disciples to do?

#### **Interpret**

22. Why do you think Jesus moves from the image of sheep to the image of harvest?
23. What does “the harvest is plentiful” teach us about the way Jesus sees possibility among hurting and scattered people?
24. Why does Jesus tell the disciples to pray before he sends them?
25. What is the danger of prayer without action?
26. What is the danger of action without prayer?

### **Reflect and Apply**

27. Have you ever prayed for God to send someone, only to realize God may be inviting you to be part of the answer?
28. What is one area where you need to pray more dependently instead of simply trying harder?
29. What is one area where your prayers may need to become more available to action?

### **Read Matthew 10:1-4**

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**Observe**

- 30. What does Jesus give to the Twelve?
- 31. What are they given authority to do?
- 32. What do you notice about the list of disciples Jesus sends?

**Interpret**

- 33. In Matthew 10:1 they are called disciples. In Matthew 10:2 they are called apostles. Why is that movement important?
- 34. What does it mean that disciples are learners before they are sent?
- 35. What does it teach us that Jesus sends ordinary, complicated, imperfect people into his mission?

**Reflect and Apply**

- 36. Do you tend to see yourself more as a learner, a sent one, or both?
- 37. What excuses do we sometimes use to convince ourselves that Jesus could not use us in his mission?
- 38. How does this list of disciples comfort you? How does it humble you?

**Read Matthew 10:5-8**

**Observe**

- 39. Where does Jesus send the Twelve first?
- 40. What message are they told to proclaim?
- 41. What works of mercy are they told to do?
- 42. What does Jesus mean when he says, "You received without paying; give without pay"?

**Interpret**

- 43. Why is it important to remember that this mission to Israel is phase one, and that Matthew ends with Jesus sending his disciples to all nations?
- 44. How does the disciples' message match the message Jesus himself has been proclaiming?
- 45. What does it mean that the kingdom is both announced and embodied?
- 46. Why must the mercy of Jesus never become merchandise, self-importance, or a way to feel superior?

**Reflect and Apply**

- 47. What have you freely received from Jesus?

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- 48. What would it look like for you to freely give mercy, forgiveness, welcome, truth, or encouragement this week?
- 49. How can we as a church proclaim the kingdom and embody the compassion of Jesus in our community?

## **Connecting the Whole Passage**

- 50. What is the main movement of this passage from beginning to end?
- 51. How does Jesus give his disciples his eyes, his authority, and his mission?
- 52. What does this passage teach us about prayer?
- 53. What does this passage teach us about mission?
- 54. What does this passage teach us about the heart of Jesus?

## **The Way of Jesus**

Throughout this series, we are asking how each passage forms us into the way of Jesus.

### **1. What kind of thing is this passage?**

How does Matthew 9:35-10:8 function in the larger story of Matthew?

### **2. Where am I in the story?**

Do you relate more to the crowds, the disciples being told to pray, or the disciples being sent?

### **3. What echoes does this text carry?**

What Old Testament images or themes stand behind “sheep without a shepherd” and “the harvest”?

### **4. What does this reveal about God and King Jesus?**

What do we learn about Jesus’ compassion, authority, and mission?

### **5. How is this forming me into the way of Jesus?**

What is one specific way Jesus may be inviting you to see, pray, or go differently this week?

## **Closing Prayer**

Lord Jesus, thank you for seeing the harassed and helpless with compassion. Give us your eyes for the people around us. Teach us to pray to the Lord of the harvest, and make us willing to be sent as people through whom your compassion moves. Amen.