

The Way of Jesus: Week 2

Sent with Compassion

Matthew 9:35-10:8

Big Idea

Jesus sees the crowds with compassion, teaches his disciples to pray, and then sends them into the mission they prayed about.

1. Jesus Teaches, Proclaims, and Heals

Matthew 9:35

Matthew summarizes Jesus' ministry:

- teaching in the synagogues
- proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom
- healing every disease and affliction

In Matthew 5–7, Jesus teaches with authority.

In Matthew 8–9, Jesus acts with authority.

In Matthew 10, Jesus sends his disciples with delegated authority.

Jesus does not separate truth and mercy.

He speaks the kingdom and shows the kingdom.

2. Jesus Sees the Crowds with Compassion

Matthew 9:36

Before Jesus sends anyone, he sees.

He sees the crowds as:

- harassed
- helpless
- like sheep without a shepherd

This is the heart of the passage.

Jesus does not see the crowds as problems, interruptions, statistics, or lost causes. He sees people who are worn down and thrown aside.

The challenge for us is simple:

Do we see people the way Jesus sees them?

3. Jesus Calls His Disciples to Pray

Matthew 9:37-38

Jesus says:

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.”

The image changes from sheep to harvest.

Sheep without a shepherd shows their need.

Harvest shows possibility and urgency.

Jesus tells his disciples to pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest.

Prayer is not a substitute for mission.

Mission is not a substitute for prayer.

Prayer is where compassion becomes dependence.

4. Jesus Sends the Ones Who Pray

Matthew 10:1-4

Jesus tells the disciples to pray for workers, and then he makes them workers.

This is a dangerous prayer:

“Lord, send someone.”

Jesus may answer:

“Good. Come here.”

Jesus gives his disciples:

1. his eyes

2. his authority
3. his mission

They are disciples before they are apostles.
They are learners before they are sent.

But discipleship does not remain passive.
Those who learn the way of Jesus are sent into the mission of Jesus.

5. The Mission Begins with Israel

Matthew 10:5-6

Jesus sends the Twelve first to “the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

This is phase one of the mission.

Matthew 10 begins with Israel.
Matthew 28 expands the mission to all nations.

God is faithful to his promises, and through Jesus the mission will eventually go to the whole world.

6. The Kingdom Is Announced and Embodied

Matthew 10:7-8

The message is:

“The kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

The disciples do not invent the message. They receive it.

Then the message is embodied:

- heal the sick
- raise the dead
- cleanse lepers
- cast out demons

The church is still called to bring good news and mercy together.

We proclaim the kingdom, and we move toward the hurting with compassion.

7. Freely Received, Freely Given

Matthew 10:8

Jesus says:

“You received without paying; give without pay.”

Or more simply:

“Freely you received, freely give.”

The mercy of Jesus is not merchandise.
The kingdom is not a product.
Ministry is not a platform for self-importance.

We received mercy freely, so we give mercy freely.

Closing

The passage leaves us with a simple but dangerous prayer:

Lord Jesus, give us your eyes.
Help us see the crowds the way you see them.
Send workers into your harvest.

But we should pray that knowing Jesus may make us part of the answer.

The way of Jesus is not simply that we receive his compassion.

The way of Jesus is that we become people through whom his compassion moves.