

Matthew 9:35-38 The Lord's Compassion on the People

Introduction: The greater part of the ministry had been spent in Capernaum, a city on the northwest shores of Galilee. He had made one earlier tour thru Galilee, Matthew 4:23. On that tour He preached His famed Sermon on the Mount. On a second trip Jesus had gone over to the eastern shore of Galilee. On that trip He calmed the stormy sea and cast the demons from a wild man. Now for the third time He leaves Capernaum. Some believe He traveled southward toward Jerusalem.

I. Jesus among the multitudes of people.

- A. He went into the villages and cities. Verse 35
 - 1. He went into the synagogues and taught and preached.
 - 2. As usual, He healed the sick and afflicted.
- B. As usual, He soon attracted large crowds.
- C. Jesus was interested in their needs.

II. The reaction of the people to Jesus.

- A. The people were eager to see Jesus because of the miracles. Verse 36a
 - 1. Some wanted merely to see.
 - 2. Some wanted to be healed.
 - 3. Some wanted their friends or relatives to be healed.
- B. But many were also eager to hear Him teach and preach.
 - 1. They wanted to hear Him explain the Scriptures.
 - 2. Particularly they were interested in hearing the gospel of the Kingdom.
(As it involved His own day and the coming millennium.)
 - 3. Many were anxious to hear Him tell about Messiah.
 - 4. Many trusted in Him and were saved. (They then submitted for baptism.)

III. The Lord's compassion on the people.

- A. The Lord had great compassion on the people. Verse 36b
- B. We think of compassion as meaning "love" and Jesus did love the people but here the Greek word means "pity."
- C. They were in a pitiful condition.
 - 1. Many were physically sick.
 - 2. Some were possessed with demons.
 - 3. All were depraved sinners in danger of judgment.
- D. He saw them as sheep having no shepherd and He wanted to be their Shepherd.
(He wanted to take care of their needs.)

IV. The need for more laborers in the field.

- A. Jesus called upon the apostles to pray for more laborers to work with the people.
Verses 37-38
 - 1. At this point Jesus was the only laborer going out to the people.
 - 2. There were the twelve apostles assisting Him, but at that time they were not going out away from Him. (They were still in training and preparation.)
 - 3. Since Jesus was in the flesh there was a limit to the places He could be and the things He could do.
- B. Question: Why did He not pray for Father for more laborers? (He certainly could.)
 - 1. He was training them and He wanted them to learn to see the need of the people.

2. He was training them and He wanted them to learn to pray the Father to meet their own need.
3. He was training them to go out as He had gone and He wanted them to be willing to go.

V. The Lord's compassion on people today.

A. The needs of the people today are as great as ever and their situation is just as pitiful.

1. The hospitals are filled with people in great distress.
2. The nursing homes are filled with a pitiful people.
3. The jails and prisons are filled (over filled) with people in trouble.
4. All have sinned and come short before God and stand in danger of eternal fire.

B. The Lord is just as compassionate as He ever was.

1. There is not one troubled soul who escapes His tender compassion.
2. He wants to be their Shepherd; He wants to save every soul; He wants to meet their every need.

VI. The Lord's concern about more laborers.

A. Just as the Lord saw the shortage of workers back then and was concerned, even so He is concerned today.

B. He sees the need for more preachers, missionaries, Sunday School teachers, youth and music workers, soul winners, visitation workers.

C. God wants His people to be concerned enough to pray for more workers.

D. He wants each of us to be concerned enough to be one of the workers.

Conclusion:

1. There are burdened souls who need Jesus. (He wants to be your Shepherd.) Trust Him right now and be saved.
2. There are saved people here with troubled hearts who need to draw closer to the Lord.
3. I call on all of you who are saved to pray for more workers for the Lord.
4. If there is some way that you can be one of those workers, I call upon you to yield to the Lord and do it.

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