

Sermon Discussion Questions for March 6, 2016

Matthew 9:35-38; "Jesus Is Compassionate"

³⁵And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and affliction. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'

A. Jesus COMBINED (vs. 35)

1. Proclamation (teaching, preaching) of the gospel of the kingdom
2. Demonstration of the power and presence of the King of that kingdom
3. The early 21st century church must likewise "combine" in our culture more so than the early 20th century church did (Clarence McCartney: 1879-1957)
 - a. the "high proclamation/low demonstration" church
 - b. the "low proclamation/high demonstration" church
 - c. the "low proclamation/low demonstration" church
 - d. the "high proclamation/high demonstration" church

Q. Where would you place Central at this point in our history?

B. Jesus SAW (vs. 36a)

1. His "incarnation" allowed him to SEE ("you can not see what you cannot see")
2. Application: how are we doing at "seeing" the brokenness of the world around us?
The effects of fear/trauma, i.e. "adrenaline dump"
 - a. auditory exclusion
 - b. loss of memory
 - c. loss of fine motor skills
 - d. time dilation
 - e. TUNNEL VISION (to break this, "scan and assess")

C. Jesus FELT (vs. 36b: splagxizomai – root spleen = spleen): "inward affection, tender mercy"

1. Our God is a God of compassion! (Ps. 103:13; 135:14; Is. 49:13; 55:7; Micah 7:18)
2. How can we "feel" if we do not "see", and how can we "see" if we do not "go"?

D. Jesus PERCEIVED (vs. 36c – harassed, helpless, sheep without a shepherd)

1. sheep/shepherd metaphor: Numb. 27:17; I Kngs. 22:17; II Chron. 18:16
2. how we perceive the unbelieving world speaks volumes about: our understanding of God, ourselves, and the gospel (Col. 3:12; Heb. 10:34)

E. Jesus RECRUITED (vs. 37-38)

1. affirmation
2. exhortation
3. celebration Lk. 10:33 (the "good Samaritan") and Lk. 15:20 (the "prodigal son")

F. Conclusion