



The Ministry of the King in Matthew: The Plentiful Harvest

December 2, 2018

Holy Text: Matthew 9:35-38

THE PLENTIFUL HARVEST

1. Today, by God's grace, we have the honor of looking at one of two texts that summarize the vision God has given us (the other being the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20).
2. We've looked at these verses repeatedly over the years, asking the LORD to "root and ground" them into the foundations of this ministry.
3. Humbly, I'd really like you to take the time to review a few messages connected to our vision before 2019 rings in. They can easily be found at the top of our media page.
 - [Who is CRCC 2016](#)
 - [Who is CRCC 2017](#)
 - [Imitating Jesus: Becoming Intentional about Reaching Lost People](#)
4. Most of the time when we look at these verses, we look at what Jesus did. For example, in verse 35 we observe that:
 - He **Went**. The word in Greek is *periago*. It means "to lead around" and suggests great intentionality.
 - He **Taught**. The word in Greek is *didasko*. It means "to hold discourse with others in order to instruct them, deliver didactic discourses."
 - He **Preached**. The word in Greek is *kerusso*. It means "to herald or proclaim openly."
 - He **Healed**. The word here is *therapeuo*. It means "to heal, cure, or restore health."
5. Today, I'd like us to examine WHY Jesus did what He did. In other words, let's look at the "other side of the coin." Specifically:
 - He went because so many were **lost**. (Luke 19:10 (KJV) "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.")
 - He taught because people were **confused** and scattered (see Hosea 4:6; Matthew 23:16-26 where He called their teachers "blind guides").
 - He preached because men needed to **hear** the Gospel proclaimed! (*Romans 10:14 (KJV) "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"*)
 - He healed because men were filled with spiritual and physical sickness and disease. We are still sick!

6. In the midst of the confusion, pain, and suffering, Scripture declares “he was moved with compassion” (v36). The Greek is *splagchnizomai*, and it means “to be moved as to one’s bowels, hence to be moved with compassion, have compassion (for the bowels were thought to be the seat of love and pity).” (Thayer)
7. The point is Jesus was moved to action from a deep place; this was no shallow love! Friends, we need this same love!

Matthew Henry said:

“He was moved with compassion on them; not upon a temporal account, as he pities the blind, and lame, and sick; but upon a spiritual account; he was concerned to see them ignorant and careless, and ready to perish for lack of vision. Note, Jesus Christ is a very compassionate friend to precious souls; here his bowels do in a special manner yearn. It was pity to souls that brought him from heaven to earth, and there to the cross. Misery is the object of mercy; and the miseries of sinful, self-destroying souls, are the greatest miseries: Christ pities those most that pity themselves least; so should we. The most Christian compassion is compassion to souls; it is most Christ-like.”

William MacDonald said:

“Oh, that we might know more of that yearning for the spiritual welfare of the lost and dying. How we need to pray constantly:

*Let me look on the crowd, as my Savior did,
Till my eyes with tears grow dim;
Let me view with pity the wandering sheep,
And love them for love of Him.”*

8. So He was moved precisely because the people he ministered to “were weary and dejected” (LEB), “harassed and helpless” (ESV), and because “they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.” (KJV)

APPLICATIONS? WHAT DO WE TAKE FROM ALL THIS?

1. First, we are still commanded to **go**. The harvest is plentiful; we have a worker shortage! Will you go?
2. Many are still **confused**, we must teach them! Will you teach?
3. Many still have **hard** hearts; we must herald the whole Gospel! Will you proclaim it?
4. Many are hurting; we must minister our LORD’s healing grace! Will you be used to heal?
5. Therefore we need God’s power to be laborers in His Harvest! Will you pray to be sent forth?

In a sermon he delivered in his church on August 17, 1873 in London, England, Charles Spurgeon said:

“Pray you therefore,” He says, as if the very fact that there are so many precious souls perishing should be our argument for praying, “Lord, it is not a few score that are left untaught and unsaved, but millions in our own land, and hundreds of millions in other lands. Therefore, Lord, we do pray You will send forth laborers.”

We are to pray to the Lord, for it is the Lord’s business. Only the Lord can send us the right men. He has a right to send whom He pleases, for it is His own harvest, and a man may employ whom he wills in his own field. It would be all in vain to appeal to anybody else. It is of no use to appeal to bishops to find us laborers. God alone has the making of ministers and the raising up of true workers, and therefore the petition must be addressed to Him.

“Pray you therefore the Lord of the harvest.” The Lord’s Prayer, in its first three petitions, contains this prayer, “Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.” Does not that mean, “Lord, send forth men who may teach this world to hallow Your name, that they through Your Spirit’s power may be the means of making Your kingdom come, and causing Your will to be done in earth as it is in heaven”? We ought to pray continually to the great Lord of the harvest for a supply of earnest laborers.

Amen LORD. May it be so!