



WARM UP QUESTION: When have you encountered a situation that deeply touched your heart and compelled you to take action?

READ: Matthew 9:37-38

FOCUS: We engage God's harvest as we love, lift and labor.

OBSERVE:

- Compassion is best described as having a sympathetic awareness of others' distress coupled with a desire to alleviate that distress. In this sermon series, our focus has been on the idea of a harvest of souls, individuals committing to follow Jesus and receiving the free gift of salvation. However, we must also recognize that there are two indispensable tools required for us to be effective as believers who participate with Jesus in the harvest. Just as our various everyday tasks demand specific tools, the right tools are essential for partnering in a successful harvest. So, what are the critical tools for believers participating in the harvest? The first is compassion for people. The second is the power of God through His Holy Spirit.
- We must strive to see people through God's eyes with compassion and understanding. Sometimes this means looking beyond the surface. We are not excusing or condoning unbiblical behavior, rather we are seeing what God sees on the inside. Sometimes this means looking beyond a bad temper or unpleasant personality. Jesus reminds us in the scripture that these are the very people who do not know their good and loving Shepherd.
- As believers, we need supernatural empowerment to boldly witness for Christ, to battle the forces of darkness and free captives from afflictions such as sickness, addiction and fear. We are to share and show the message of Jesus Christ wherever God has called you and placed you (Acts 1:8). We often try to accomplish these things through our own strength and abilities; however, we cannot accomplish this mission on our own. God is the one sending us into the harvest. He is more than capable of preparing and equipping us. All we need to do is make ourselves available and surrender all to Him.

TAKING ACTION:

- Today, make a sincere declaration to the Lord that you are available. Surrender yourself entirely to Him without holding anything back, and draw near to God through daily prayer.
- Consider joining a Discipleship Class to become a more effective disciple-maker or to grow in your confidence to engage those in the harvest.

REFLECT:

- Are you concerned about how you can contribute to the harvest? Are there any ways that you question your effectiveness as a believer participating in the harvest?

PRAY:

Lord, I am fully available to You. I surrender my will to Yours and ask for Your guidance in using me as an instrument for Your purposes. Help me fulfill the role You designed for me in Your plan of redemption for this generation, in Jesus' name I pray, Amen.