



Jesus: The Great Physician and Farmer

Sunday, February 26/23 --- Matthew 9:35 – 38

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

Matthew 9:36 – 38

In this passage, Matthew employs two metaphors to describe the ministry Jesus had while He was on the earth. One, a doctor who healed disease and sickness out of compassion. And two, a farmer who saw the harvest and the need for workers to be sent out. We are the ones that Jesus has sent out, called to minister out of His compassion, to meet the needs of the hurting, and to bring in a harvest of souls for the glory of His Name. The entire enterprise is fuelled by prayer.

1. Jesus went to the people, and He met them (9:35 – 36)

2. Jesus was moved with compassion as He ministered (9:36)

3. Jesus ministered one by one to the needs He encountered (9:35)

4. Jesus called His disciples to minister as He did (9:37 – 38)
 - a. Characteristics of the harvest
 - b. Qualities of the workers



Discussion Questions:

The subject of prayer remained a mystery for C. S. Lewis even up until his death. He writes this six months before his passing – *‘If you ask why I believe all this, I can only reply that we are taught, both by precept and example, to pray, and that prayer would be meaningless in the sort of universe (that was all predetermined)’*.

C. S. Lewis, Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer

- Do you struggle to understand how your praying and God’s willing both work together? What does today’s Scripture teach us on the subject?
- Do you identify more with the doctor or the farmer metaphor? Why?
- Do you see the people around you the way Jesus saw the crowds? Why not?
- What does it mean for us to know that Jesus is the *‘Lord of the Harvest’*?

Application:

Write out a prayer in response to verse 38. Is this prayer about you being sent to other people who are ready for the harvest, or is it about someone else? Or both? Then share this prayer with someone, and pray it with them.