

PRAY YE THEREFORE

MATTHEW 9:36-38

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³⁶ But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. ³⁷ Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the labourers *are* few; ³⁸ Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Introduction:

In this passage, Jesus looked upon the multitudes that had gathered around Him because of the miracles. As He looked at the helpless, hopeless, and hurting people, Jesus saw four elements that caused Him to be moved with compassion on these lost ones.

1. THE LORD SAW THEIR DEPARTURE FROM GOD (VS.36)

Matthew 9:36

³⁶ But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

They were "scattered abroad"

A. Outside the fold. (No company or fellowship)

B. Away from the Shepherd (No guidance or protection)

C. Away from home (No comfort or rest)

D. Apart from where they ought to have been – (Ill. Eph. 2:12) (Ill. Sheep do no do well alone!)

E. Christians need to understand that this world is away from God!

2. THE LORD SAW THEIR DEPRAVITY IN SIN (VS. 36)

Matthew 9:36

³⁶ But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

A. Jesus wasn't referring to physical fainting! He intended a deeper meaning!

B. He was moved with compassion because these people were lost under a burdensome load of sin.

3. THE LORD THEIR DESTINY IN HELL

He could see the end from the beginning. He knew that apart from Him, they would all be in Hell

Christians need the same vision! If we really believe in Hell like we say we do, then why aren't we telling more men about the Savior?

4. THE LORD SAW THEIR DESPAIR WITHOUT A SHEPHERD

They were without a shepherd

5. THE LORD SENT HIS DISCIPLES

The Lord places three responsibilities on the shoulders of his people.

A. Visualize

See the harvest! Recognize that not everyone is saved and millions are poised on the edge of everlasting damnation! We also need to see that the harvest is just waiting to be gleaned! We will never reap until we first enter the field! (Mark 16:15)

Mark 16:15

¹⁵ And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

B. Agonize

"Pray ye therefore." This is a call to be broken and burdened over the plight of the lost. III. There are few broken hearts over the lost in our day! We need to attack Hell on their behalf, constantly praying for them and seeking the Lord for the souls of sinners.

C. Evangelize

It isn't enough to see the need, nor is it enough to pray for the lost and be concerned for their souls. Jesus desires that each of us do the work.

Close:

The command is clear. See the harvest, and lack of labors.

We are to pray for labors as well as be a laborer.