

Sermon guide March 1, 2020
Matthew 9:35-38

Sermon Notes:

What does it look like to be mission-focused?

- 1) The meaning of mission
 - a) Preaching, teaching, and healing
- 2) The motive for mission
 - a) Compassionate caring for sheep
- 3) The mindset of mission
 - a) The problem is not a lack of harvesting needed.. it's a lack of harvesters

Reflect:

- 1) Consider your "preaching". In what ways do you proclaim the gospel using words that make it clear? Where are there opportunities for you to do this more?
- 2) Consider the content of your message to those around you. Are you better known for morals and stances on social issues, or for the Gospel? How can you make sure that your message is the Gospel, even as you maintain biblical convictions on social issues?
- 3) In what ways can we properly value the "healing" aspect of Gospel ministry without setting aside the message of Gospel hope?
- 4) Think of "the crowds" around you - people with different values and different faith... some who might be considering Jesus and many who aren't. Do they, and their values, stir you to move toward them with compassion, or to retreat with anger and/or fear? What would it look like for you to have an even greater level of compassion for them?
- 5) As you go about your day and see many people at work or the store or driving past you, do you consider the destiny of these people? If so, how does it impact your perspective on them and on mission? If not, what can you do to reinforce this people-oriented perspective?
- 6) Think about the evidence of your life - your hopes, dreams, activities, and conversations. Based on your life (not your theology), what mission are you here for? How can you tell? Are there ways in which your mission needs to align better with what Jesus calls us to?

Study:

- 1) Read Ephesians 2:1-10.
 - a) What does Paul teach here that impacts your understanding of unbelievers?
 - b) What does Paul teach that can increase our compassion for the lost?
 - c) What does Paul teach that points to our hope?
 - d) What does Paul teach that points to and clarifies our mission?

Pray:

- 1) **Scripture:** Pray through Hebrews 13:20-21: "20 Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, 21 equip you with everything good that you may do his

will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

- 2) **Identity:** As you pray together, keep in mind that we are missionaries, called to reach out in our life circumstances, whatever and wherever they may be.
- 3) **Redemption:** Recall 2 Cor 6:1-2: “6 Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

As you pray, remember that now, today, is the time of salvation. There will come a day when it is too late, but that is not yet. Pray in hope that many will turn to faith.