

Compassion (Matthew 9:35 – 10:4)

Introduction

- Why is compassion in short supply today?
- Where are we going to see compassion in this morning's passage?
- What happens in Matthew 9:35 – 10:42?

i Compassion arises from people's plight (9:36)

- What does the word translated "compassion" actually speak of?
- What is true of sheep without a shepherd?
- What "shepherds" did the people of Jesus' day lack?
- What does Jesus actually say about the condition of the "sheep" of his day?
- And what does that mean?
- How does he respond to them, then?
- What do you feel when you see crowds of people?
- What do you need if you feel little compassion?
- How can you grow in this?

ii Compassion leads to prayer (9:37-38)

- Explain Jesus' metaphor in 9:37.
- What is the gospel application of his metaphor?

- What is Jesus' solution to this problem in 9:38?
- What lesson are we learning about prayer here, then?
- Is Jesus just talking about full-time gospel harvesters here?
- What do you do when you appreciate the enormity of the gospel task?
- What should we do in this area as a church?

iii Compassion leads to action (10:1-4)

- What does Jesus do in 10:1?
- Is he giving these gifts to the church for all time?
- Give two examples of the disciples' diversity in 10:2-4.
 - i)
 - ii)
- What is the first lesson of this section for us?
- Why is it dangerous to pray the prayer of 9:38?
- Why should you pray it anyway?
- What is the second lesson of this section for us?

Conclusion

- Who was the "shepherd" the people of Jesus' day needed?
- What should you do if you have never come to him?