

Imagine US

a missional vitality series

BEING COMPASSIONATE

35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

Matthew 9:35-38

³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.

Matthew 9:35-38

**38 Ask the Lord of the harvest,
therefore, to send out workers into
his harvest field.”**

Matthew 9:35-38

**Having a form of godliness, but
denying its power.**

2 Timothy 3:5

**“I like your Christ, I do not like
your Christians. Your
Christians are so unlike
your Christ.”**

(Mahatma Gandhi)

**16 For I am not ashamed of the
gospel, because it is the power of
God that brings salvation to everyone
who believes.**

Romans 1:16

**Compassion is one of the
authenticating marks of true
Christianity**

1) COMPASSION SEES THE SOULS

(vs. 35-36a)

35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. **36** When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them.

Matthew 9:35-36a

**Matthew 9:35-38 is the
believer's spiritual vision test**

**[God] has also set eternity in the
human heart.**

Ecclesiastes 3:11

**Jesus' ministry is not
attractiional, it is
transformational**

Do not be afraid, for I am with
you; I will bring your children from
the east and gather you from the west.
⁶ I will say to the north, 'Give them
up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold
them back.'

Isaiah 43:5-7

Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth — ⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

Isaiah 43:5-7

**“Rescue the perishing, care
for the dying, Jesus is
merciful, Jesus will save.”**

**“Rescue the Perishing”
(Fanny Crosby)**

2) COMPASSION FEELS THE SUFFERING

(vs. 40)

They were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 9:36b

11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away.

John 10:11-16

Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—

John 10:11-16

1⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. 1⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also.

John 10:11-16

1⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. 1⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also.

John 10:11-16

**They too will listen to my voice, and
there shall be one flock and one
shepherd.**

John 10:11-16

**The challenge for us is to see
ourselves as sheep while also
functioning as shepherds**

**We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own
way.**

Isaiah 53:6

**If the world is our flock, and
we are under-shepherds,
where are we and what are
we doing?**

The word of the LORD came to me:
2 “Son of man, prophesy against the
shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say
to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign
LORD says: Woe to you shepherds of
Israel who only take care of yourselves!

Ezekiel 34:1-4

Should not shepherds take care of the flock? ³ You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. ⁴ You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured.

Ezekiel 34:1-4

**You have not brought back the strays
or searched for the lost. You have
ruled them harshly and brutally.”**

Ezekiel 34:1-4

⁵ So they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals.

Ezekiel 34:5-6

⁶ My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. They were scattered over the whole earth, and no one searched or looked for them.

Ezekiel 34:5-6

"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?"

Luke 15:4

**Christians must live each day
recalling what it means to be
lost and now found**

3) COMPASSION SENDS THE SOLUTION

(vs. 37-38)

37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. **38** Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Matthew 9:37-38

**By 2042, the world population
will be 9 billion people**

**We must learn how to
relentlessly pray kingdom-
minded prayers for more
labourers**

**When it comes to souls,
Jesus expects us to be the
answer to our own prayers**

¹ Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew;

Matthew 10:1-4

James son of Zebedee, and his brother
John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew;
Thomas and Matthew the tax collector;
James son of Alphaeus, and
Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot and
Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Matthew 10:1-4

**Even now, over two thousand
years later, we can be the
answer to the twelve
disciples' prayer**



**My intention is to offend you
with gospel offense**

**We must get uncomfortable
so that we can become
compassionate**

**Woe to me if I do not preach the
gospel!**

1 Corinthians 9:16



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