

***Ripe - Matthew 9:27-38***  
**Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

**Notes from the Sermon**

It won't be long until the farm fields in our region turn brown, signifying the start of the Fall harvest. Farmers are already testing the moisture level of the corn and beans while they get their combines ready for the work. Next thing you know these giant tractors will be rolling through fields all over the Midwest, cutting the plants, pulling the grain, and throwing the chaff back into the field while they leave a dust trail that hovers for miles. Before these tractors came along the harvest looked vastly different. It took whole communities working together to get crops out of the fields and ready for consumption or sale. It is still that way for many fruits (which is why Eckarts has you pay to do it for them). Miss the harvest, though, and families will be in trouble. Therefore, key to the farmer's job is watch the fields and be ready for the harvest.

Jesus used common language to help His disciples understand the purpose for their calling. Jesus rescued them and called them to Himself. They were the first Christian small group, as Jesus intentionally invested into their lives. He deeply loved these men, and spent considerable time doing faith and life with them. He ministered to them, but also included them in His greater ministry to the crowds. They were there and they were involved when he healed people, fed the 5,000, and even raised people from death. They were present and involved in his teaching ministry, both in the synagogues and to the larger crowds outside towns in Galilee. They noticed the growing opposition to him, while also seeing the huge crowds seeking Jesus out. So they noticed the love and compassion Jesus had for these people.

No phrase better represents the heart of Jesus than Matthew 9:36. "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them..." The eyes of Jesus saw people differently. We tend to see people in clumps, and often transactionally. Yes, we have friends and family, they get our notice. But the girl at Walmart can be little more than an object for a goal (to get my stuff and get out of there). We tend to see people from other races and socioeconomic classes through lenses that puts people in a social order, usually finding a way to put self above them. We look at the financial means of people and either look down if they are below us, or find a way to negate them if they are in a social group above. And when we see crowds, we see just that. Not Jesus, He never really saw a crowd. As the Son of God He always saw past masses and into the soul of every person. He felt the weight of their humanity and saw their brokenness. He realized they were like sheep without a shepherd. Oh, they had shepherds, but the leaders they followed used and abused them, often gaining for themselves while leaving the people more broken and destitute. These people needed a shepherd, but not just any shepherd, they needed the Good Shepherd.

Yet, a genuine problem existed in the ministry of Jesus. Yes, He is God, yet he had taken on humanity. Therefore He was limited to a single place, and in real ways, individual moments and relationships. Oh, those moments were glorious. Blind men healed, demon oppressed people delivered! But how could he reach the entire harvest. Our text this week shows us the answer to this. The compassion of Jesus turns Him toward His disciples. He wants them to lift their eyes and see people, to feel the weight He feels, to see their hurts and sin, and to realize that there was only one true hope for these people. Jesus has shaped them through the Gospel of the Kingdom, now He is showing them that His Gospel will cause them to lift their eyes and see people through His eyes. "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." Like a farmer looking out to the fields, Jesus is inviting these 12 men to look at the fields and notice that they are ready for harvest. But who will go to the fields and bring the harvest home? In the next few weeks we will see the answer, but we can't step over the first step here. He calls these men to see people, and respond in prayer. "Pray to

the Lord of the Harvest," he commands them. This is an invitation into His ministry, to join His work. Prayer is not preparation for the work, prayer is the work. And by praying, Jesus knows that their hearts will be molded into the image of Jesus. They will see the fields, the masses, people through His eyes.

This is always the invitation for those who have experienced the Gospel. A church can quickly become a crowd of people, who then leave the church to go to other crowds. How will we see people and not crowds? How will we gain compassion? We believe the starting place for this type of growth and discipleship is in community. But not just any community, rather a community on mission. When these communities pray for neighborhoods, schools, places of work, nations, God shapes their hearts to see the harvest and feel both the weight and beauty of people. So let's pray to the Lord of the Harvest that he might send laborers into the harvest.

### **Bible Reading for the Week**

#### **Daily Bible Readings**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Exodus 2	Exodus 3	Exodus 4	Exodus 5	Exodus 6	Exodus 7	Exodus 8

Reading from this past week's sermon: Matthew 9:27-38

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Matthew 10:1-4

### **Family Worship**

Song - *House of the Lord*

<https://youtu.be/lqfV0zeEvT8?feature=shared>

#### **Gospel Project**

Unit: King Solomon

Story: The Queen of Sheba visited Solomon

Big Picture Question: What does God know?

Answer: God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

Scripture: 1 Kings 10

#### **New City Catechism**

Question 35: Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through faith alone, where does this faith come from?

Answer: From the Holy Spirit.

Verse: Titus 3:4-6

#### **Matthew 9:27-38**

- What does the text communicate when it tells us that Jesus had compassion when He looked on the crowds?
- How do the two healing stories show us the power of Jesus and His love for people?
- Why would Jesus include His disciples in His ministry? What should this teach us about the way the Gospel should shape us?
- How might prayer shape the way we see crowds and people? Why do we need this to understand our purpose and calling?

#### **Prayer**

\*Pray that the Gospel and life of Jesus would shape us so that our lives and purpose are shaped by Him.

\*Pray for our partners at Center Cross Academy, the students and teachers at this school, and for their emphasis on education as mission in St. Louis.