
Rekindling Our Passion for the Lost

Ezekiel 34:11-12, Matthew 9:35-39

The gospel is based on the reality that sinners need the saving grace, mercy and compassion of Christ. This is the reason for Christ's mission (Matt. 9:13; Luke 19:10; 1 Tim. 1:15). Jesus was passionate for people who are spiritually lost (Matt. 23:37-39).

Our passion for God supernaturally produces passion for the people whom the Lord loves (1 Peter 3:8).

As we rekindle the same compassion for the lost, we ought to experience three things:

1. We need to _____ as Jesus _____

Jesus and the disciples saw the crowd of people who were following them and coming to them. But Jesus saw them with different eyes than the disciples did. Jesus saw the great need of lost people (Eph. 2:12). These Jewish crowd were religious but even their religion was a source of burden (Matt. 11:28; 15:14; 23:4), suffering under the hands of their self-righteous self-seeking religious leaders (John 9:24-34; cf. Ezek. 34:3-4; Matt. 23:4).

Jesus also saw the great opportunity of harvest of lost people (cf. John 4:35, Luke 10:2).

2. We need to _____ as Jesus _____

The verb "felt compassion," means to feel something deep down inside. The care and love of God is shown in that He sent His beloved Son to become like one of us (Heb. 4:15) that we might experience His love and compassion (Matt. 14:14; cf. Matt. 8:17; 14:14; 15:32; 18:27; Mark 5:19; 6:34; 8:2). Now in 1 Peter 3:8, he calls us to show that same compassion to others.

3. We need to _____ as Jesus _____

Jesus ministered to people's needs. We too, are called to minister (serve). Every Christian is called to serve Christ and minister to others. God has given every believer unique gifts and opportunities to be used in serving others (Rom. 12:6ff; 1 Cor. 12:4-6). We may have differing gifts, but God expects us to use them in serving others (1 Pet.4:10).

May the love of Jesus our Savior motivate us to go out of our comfort zones and proclaim to good news of salvation to this sinful world. If you have experienced that salvation, then you're one of His workers in His harvest. Jesus is calling you to pray for laborers. And as you do, may you also be ready and willing to respond like Isaiah who said, "Here am I Lord, send me."