

OUR VISION! OUR MISSION

Matthew 9:36-38; John 4:35

*"Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. Then He *said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest." Matthew 9:36-38*

"Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest." John 4:35

Our VISION: *"see the people"*

Easy to see the people w/o seeing the people. See...

- ➔ Rioters*
- ➔ Racists*
- ➔ Liberals*
- ➔ Conservatives*
- ➔ Black, white, brown*

Make judgements on their value based on what we see people do...makes us angry

Mother Teresa asked if ever became angry at the social injustices she saw India & other places

where she served? "Why should I expend energy in anger that I can expend in love?"

But how did Jesus see people? Don't have to wonder:

- 1. DISTRESSED** – harassed; severely troubled; battered; bruised; worn out & exhausted
- 2. DISPIRITED** – thrown down; utterly helpless; spiritually heart broken
- 3. LOST** – "Sheep without a shepherd"; helpless & defenseless; without a shepherd they wander off & get lost & stay lost

How it would change things if we quit criticizing & condemning people for what they do & we reached out to them for who they are.

Who are they? People loved by God!

Our MISSION: Compassion

Wycliffe Translator: "Loved them till it hurt" Jesus loved us all enough to go to the cross. He loved us till it hurt!

Do we love them enough to reach out to them! To participate in the harvest!

PROBLEM IS NOT OPPORTUNITY:

Image of vast fields with much to be harvested –
“white unto harvest”! **It is time to harvest!**

Problem is there are not enough laborers in the
harvest – soon it will be too late!

Raises a question: Why are there not enough
laborers in the harvest? There are enough Christians,
so why are they not working in the harvest?

- ➔ The saved are saved to serve!
- ➔ Those who follow Jesus are to invite others to
follow Jesus!

So why?

One reason: IT IS HARD WORK: ILLUSTRATION: Two
brothers got sick of city life...

It is a demanding & costly task – not a long line of
those who want to & are willing to!

**EFFECTIVE CHRISTIANITY DEMANDS A STRONG WORK
ETHIC**

**ANOTHER REASON IS IT IS EASY TO IGNORE THE
HARVEST**

- ➔ stay busy without leaving the house;
- ➔ too much emphasis on taking care of ourselves.

To often you will hear something like this: "I believe we need to reach out to our world but we need to take care of ourselves first."

And then you hear this in the church:

- ➔ Not enough money
 - ➔ Not enough people
 - ➔ Not enough opportunity
- Denies the words of Jesus
 - Denies the power of the Gospel

And I want you to remember this: If we had...

- ➔ ...all the money we needed
 - ➔ ...all the people we needed
 - ➔ ...all the programs we needed
 - ➔ ...all the talent & creativity we needed
- ...we would not need God and **IF WE DON'T NEED GOD WE WILL HAVE A MINISTRY WITHOUT IMPACT!**

EFFECTIVE CHRISTIANITY DEMANDS AN OUTWARD LOOK

There is no shortage of people which means there is no...

- ➔ ...shortage of opportunity

➔ ...shortage of the power of the Gospel [I believe in the power of the gospel]

The only deficits we need to be concerned about are a...

➔...shortage of Christians who will work in the harvest

➔...shortage of Christians who have the compassion Jesus has for people.

EFFECTIVE CHRISTIANITY DEMANDS CHRIST-FOLLOWERS HAVE CHRISTLIKE COMPASSION FOR ALL PEOPLE

That's why we will continue and intensify our efforts to be a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic church. WHY? **PROTECT...PROMOTE...PRACTICE**

- 1. PRACTICAL**
- 2. THEOLOGICAL**

As a member of this church I want you to think 2 words:

- 1. SENDING** – sending laborers into our community
- 2. SERVING** – serving our community. We do not transform lives by...

○ ...fantastic worship services

- ...great preaching
- ...entertaining programs BUT we transform lives by serving our community

For you personally that means:

- 1. GOING** – into the community
- 2. DOING** – doing the work of Jesus in the community

Every member is a missionary – there is no spiritual hierarchy. You say, “I don’t know where to go or what to do!”

- ~ You are already where you need to go
- ~ You do what God gives you to do

Answering some questions would help:

“What makes you truly unique?”

“What is the most consistent thing you hear people say about you?”

“What is something you do well without thinking about it?”

“What do you absolutely love to do?”

“Who are those nearest you whom you can serve on a daily basis?”

I do not stand before you proud – as one with all the answers. I am a man of privileges – every privilege is a privilege of grace:

Last Sunday, in the 10:50 overflow, I realized how powerful that small gathering was! So powerful...

➔ Gates of hell could not prevail

➔ More than the election – don't confuse the message

That is the power of the local church on mission

I want us to have a vision of people – who for all they need, there one common need – a need for Jesus – I want you & me to be on mission