

“Thank God For His Family Farm!”

Matthew 9:38-41

January 25, 2026

INTRO: If you only had 1 biblical portrait of Jesus to share...

PRAYER

CONTEXT:

- Matthew's Gospel on Christ's kingdom Gospel
- Prepping for His 2nd great discourse/teaching...
- Again & again... we are SEE-ing Christ BE-ing!

VIDEO: Matthew's Gospel

(part 1) per The Bible Project

BIG IDEA: God's faithful family learns, loves, & lives on His farm & in His fields!

PREVIEW: Christ-likeness exemplifies His:

1. Commission
2. Compassion
3. Commands

TEXT:

Matthew 9:35-38

I. His Co-Mission (v.35)

³⁵And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming/preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.

➤ *Jesus went & sent...to synagogues, streets & sickly...*

- He is setting up to send them out...
- He is setting up to send sacrificial sheep...
- He is setting up to send out cross-carriers...

➤ *Jesus went & sent locally, regionally, & globally...*

- ***“Throughout ALL the cities & villages...”***
- See Matthew 28:18-20
- See Acts 1:8

➤ ***He went & sent teaching, preaching, & healing.***

- He was teaching & preaching ***“these things”***
- John 3... vv.3; 16; 36
- John 14:15 & 20:21

II. His Com-Passion (v.36)

³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

A. *He went; He preached; He healed/helped* (v.35)

B. He sees (v.36).

- a. He sees because He is looking... How about us?
- b. Most people find what they are looking for...
- c. You will seldom find what you're NOT looking for.

C. He cares (v.36). *"He had compassion"* How about us?

➤ DEFINITION:

*Compassion has different **"applied"** definitions depending on Who/who you ask to define it!*

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Right definitions lead to (but do NOT guarantee) righteous applications.
- **Wrong definitions almost always lead to wrong applications!**
- True compassion is defined & described as helping to bring others what they NEED (as opposed to what they may want).

➤ **DYNAMICS: COMPASSION is...**

- Biblical
- Christological
- Missional
- Cultural
- Practical
- Moral
- Ethical
- Emotional
- Local, Regional, & Global
- Personal

➤ **DESCRIPTION:**

- Christ = Compassion
- Compassion is Gospel fruit for God's glory!
- Compassion is *self's medicine*.
- Compassion is love's validation
- Compassion is *truth's love*
- Compassion is grace's fruit
- Compassion is *mercy's motive*
- Compassion is mission's aroma
- Compassion is *Church's witness*
- Compassion is Christianity's dna

➤ **DISTINCTIVES: Compassion HAS NO...**

- Walls or address...
- Time schedule / working hours...
- Social boundaries / preferences...
- International bias...
- Initiation fee...
- Recipient's litmus test... (Matt 10:16!)
- Political affiliation...
- Rituals... or superficial routines...
- Excuses...

EXCUSES are only acceptable...
to those who make them!

- **“Compassion is too costly.”**
- **“Compassion is too under appreciated.”**
- **“Compassion is too often abused.”**
- **“Compassion is too tooth-less.”**
- **“Compassion is too risky.”**

*** IN REALITY: **Lacking Compassion is...**

- Too costly
- Too under appreciated
- Too often abused
- Too often toothless
- Too risky!

We could & should ALL learn from Kevin Carter...



- Award winning photographer, **Kevin Carter** took this picture of a starving child in Africa, while doing nothing to help... 3 months later he committed suicide in the wake of public scrutiny and the societal rebuke he received for his apparent lack of compassion.
- Note his lack of caring, doing, & being after he saw and claimed to feel...
- Note as well how his illustrated travesty & tragedy of caring, doing, & BE-ing came too late for him (suicide)!

D. He serves (v.36). How about us?

- Biblical & missional, Christ-like compassion is expressed & experienced via BOTH Word AND deed(s)...
- See **1st John 3:18!**

- See & BE!
- BE like HIM!
- BE The Church!
- Feel with zeal!
- Dare to care!
- Die to “I”!
- Preach The Word!
- Walk the talk!
- Do the work!
- Live to give!
- Share & serve!
- Shine His light!

➤ Biblical, missional, & personal compassion are to BE Christianity’s & every church’s & Christian’s) Christ-like message, method, & mission!

III. His Commands (v.37-8)

³⁷Then he said to his disciples, *“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”*

- *“HE said...”*
- *“To His disciples...”*
- *“THE harvest is plentiful...”*
 - *“The fields are white for harvest...” (John 4:35)*
 -
 - Miraculous reaping vs. mechanical regrouping
 - CHURCH birthing vs. crowd building
- *“BUT, the laborers are few...”*
- *“Therefore,”*
 - Reality of lost fields calls for found followers
- *“Pray earnestly”*
- *“To THE Lord...” (“of the harvest”)*
- *“To send...”*
- *“Out”*
- *“Laborers”*
- *“Into”*
- *“The harvest.”*

Think about the travesty of unharvested fields rotting!

“The fields are white...”

A. Meaning

- The fields are the lost people
- The workers are the found people
- **The harvest is the Gospel’s miraculous transformation of people!**

B. Message

- If you are in this family...
- Pray for our family AND...
- Join in the working of our Father's fields...

C. Mission

- CO-missioned with Christ (in Christ-likeness)
- Compassionately pray & obey
- Carpe diem!

We should want & work to plunder hell
to populate heaven!

REVIEW:

God's faithful family learns,
loves, & lives on His farm & in His fields!

Christ-likeness exemplifies His:

1. Commission
2. Compassion
3. Commands

CLOSE:

THEOLOGY in this passage:

- God's Grace
- God's Gospel
- God's Glory

THEMES in this passage:

- Christ's SOVEREIGNTY
- Christ's PROVIDENCE
- Christ's TRUTH in LOVE
- Christian/Christ-like TRUTH in LOVE
- Christian/Christ-like URGENCY
- Christian/Christ-like VICTORY
- Human DEPRAVITY
- Human DEPENDENCE
- Human DISCIPLESHIP
- SOVEREIGN GRACE & HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY

TRUTH in this passage:

- We need to **learn...** JESUS is Lord.
- We need to **love...** Jesus IS Lord...
- We need to **live...** Jesus is LORD!

PRAYER