

# ***“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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)

<sup>35</sup>And 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)

<sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, “***The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore 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 DISCIPLESHP
- 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