

PRECEPT

MATTHEW 9:35-38

³⁵ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶ When He saw the crowds, He was moved with compassion and pity for them because they were dispirited and distressed, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. ³⁸ So pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

PROMISE

Evangelism is important. All of our work toward bettering the here and now needs to also include the hope of Jesus for a Gospel of life eternal. That is the great commission. We don't shirk our responsibilities to share the hope of Christ just because it might not be a home run every time. But our motives matter. J. I. Packer wrote, "There are, in fact, two motives that should spur us constantly to evangelize. The first is love for God and concern for his glory; the second is love for man and concern for his welfare." There are many reasons we hesitate to share our faith. There is ignorance, arrogance, apathy, and lack of compassion. We also likely all have a (possibly wrong or overly narrow) idea of what evangelism looks like. The church has tried many different methods to evangelism—for better and for worse. Thankfully, we have two things that help us be confident in our call to make disciples. First, we don't have to be boxed in by methods. God is at work and can use any method to reach people. There is no doubt that he uses us despite our failings. Second, we have the Holy Spirit to empower us. Evangelism is less about being prepared, polished, or perfect and more about allowing God to use our lives to share with others. We are allowed to answer hard questions with "I don't know." It's okay if we don't have it all together. We aren't marketing a self-help tool or bearing responsibility for their eternal soul (God's role); we are introducing others to Jesus. If we enter a relationship hoping to "save" someone, we have forgotten that there is already a Saviour: Jesus. He is the only one necessary, and if we attempt to play that role, we will miss the mark, needlessly offend others, and fuel (or fail) our ego instead of God's mission.

In Matthew 9:36, the verse says that Jesus was moved with compassion and pity, seeing that the people were like sheep without a shepherd. Compassion is love in action, as shown by Christ. *"He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick."* Matthew 14:14 *"Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes, and immediately they regained their sight and followed Him."* Matthew 20:34 *"Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out with His hand and touched him, and said to him, 'I am willing; be cleansed.'"* Mark 1:41 and many other verses in the Bible shows us how compassionate Jesus has been. In our ordinary, day-to-day life, we can share the Gospel to others and show compassion to others by doing the following:

Listen actively (You will not know the whole story until you care to listen)

Offer help and guidance (Rebuke with love, be accountable, moral support, and practical help)

Value the person (Every person is important, care for them, let them know about it)

Encourage them to know, follow, and grow like Jesus (This is our mission)

The truth is we are all called to preach the Gospel and make disciples, and compassion must be the driving force of our calling. Compassion is the heart of the Great Commission. Compassion must be our motivation in sharing Jesus.

PRACTICE

1. Sharing the Gospel. Do you think we need to share Jesus with others (family and friends)? Why?

2. Compassion. Who are the people you feel compassionate with? Why do you want to help them?

3. Next Step. Prayer is the first step in showing compassion to others. What do you think is the next step to show compassion to others?

PRAYER

I. North Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the North groups: Ocampo & Ico.

II. East Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the East groups: Domingo & Torres.

III. West Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the West groups: Solidum, Fabregas, and Gamboa.

IV. South Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the South groups: Drapeza & Tablan.

V. Circles

- Pray for Manalo couple in leading the youth & singles of our church.

VI. Young Couples Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the Young Couples' groups: Imperial, Oliveros & Gumasing.

VII. Ministries

- Pray for all ministries to look to God alone to guide and direct their paths in all the work that they do.