



CHURCH *Multiplication* SUNDAY

Sermon Title: “I Will Build My Church!”

Text: Matthew 9:35-38

Theme: Jesus, Compassion, Prayer, and Mission Expansion Through Church Planting

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Matthew 9:35-38: “And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 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.’”

FIVE KEY THEMES OF MATTHEW

1. **Christ (Matt. 1:1:17):** Christ is the fulfillment of the promises given to Abraham and David.
2. **Compassion (Matt. 9:35-38):** Christ’s ministry and mission are grounded in compassion, in prayer, and it is carried out by his laborers.
3. **Church (Matt. 16:18; cf. 18:17):** Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, he builds his church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.
4. **Commandment (Matt. 22:37-39):** The two greatest commandments are to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and to love your neighbor as yourself.
5. **Commission (Matt. 28:18-20):** With the promise of the Lord’s presence, Christians make disciples of all nations, the fulfillment and extension of the promise given to Abraham, making Christ the one in and through whom the nations will be blessed.

Summary: Jesus is the Christ, who has come to fulfill the law and the prophets. Through his living out the commandment and his compassion for others, he builds his church, which is the means by which his commission given to his disciples is accomplished. The church is foundational to the work of Jesus, of which he serves as head, it serves as a manifestation of the gospel proclaimed about Christ, the good news, and the extension and expansion of the church is a way Christians make disciples of all nations, with the promise that Jesus will build his church and he will be with them.

Question: Since God’s plan is fulfilled through Christ as he builds his church, what significance does this have for our understanding of the church, and what impact does this have for how we are to engage, with Christ’s promise and presence, in raising up a generation of disciplemakers who are extending gospel ministry, strengthening, revitalizing and planting churches among all people?

Challenge: One writes, “Among the best ways for us to reach people with the gospel is personal evangelism and church planting. Even with all the changes in culture this remains our best option for reaching unbelievers.”

INTRODUCTION

1. **Structure:** This text is sandwiched between two major discourses from Matthew 5-7, the Sermon on the Mount, and Matthew 10, the Mission discourse, with chapters 8-9 being an extended narrative between the two.
2. **Literary Context:** Matthew 9:35-38 serves a transitional purpose, functioning as a theological summary (5-9) and also as a theological primer to the Mission discourse (10). This section is bracketed with a parallel statement in 4:23 and 9:35, focusing on Jesus teaching and ministry. In summary, Jesus mission is part of his ministry and a result of his compassion. This leads Jesus to call the disciples to pray (9:35-38) for workers to be sent into the harvest field (10:1-4), while being willing to be those very laborers for whom they prayed.
3. **Main Idea:** By reiterating the theme in 9:35 (from 4:23), Matthew reveals this mission is the one Jesus has been doing all along. Through Jesus' teaching (5-7) and his miraculous deeds (8-9), he has made the harvest ready, and it is now time for the disciples to go into the harvest fields. Jesus' compassion leads him to meet the needs of the people, which is grounded in prayer to God for laborers to meet those needs, with a commission from Jesus to be those very laborers (10:1-4).
4. **Summary:** Jesus' compassionate response to the people results in his call to the disciples to pray that the Lord of the harvest would send out laborers into his harvest field. Jesus' teaching and ministry are now extended to and expanded by the disciples.



SERMON OUTLINE: MATTHEW 9:35-38

Thesis: Jesus is central to the gospel, he is the model of compassion for people, he is preeminent in the church, and he is the focus of the ministry and mission of discipling and the planting of churches.

Question: What do we learn from Jesus? To what and in what ways is the Lord Jesus, as the Head of the church, calling us as the church to be engaged in the ministry of the gospel of the kingdom?

1. Jesus' ministry consists of teaching, preaching the gospel, and healing, which manifests the gospel of the kingdom, and it is all encompassing, addressing all needs of all people in all places.
 - "And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction" (9:35; cf. 4:23; 24:14; 28:18-20).
 - What does this mean for you as a follower of Jesus Christ, for the church, and for what needs to happen to continue the ministry of proclaiming, extending and expanding the gospel of the kingdom through church planting?
2. Jesus' ministry is grounded in compassion for people, as he came to seek and to save the lost.
 - "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (9:36; cf. Num. 27:17-18; Ezek. 34:1-16; Zech. 10:2-3).
 - What does this mean for you as a follower of Jesus Christ, for the church, and for what needs to happen to continue the ministry of proclaiming, extending and expanding the gospel of the kingdom through church planting?

3. Jesus' compassion moved him to meet the need, and he did so with the certain hope of a harvest.
 - "Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few' (9:37; cf. 14:14; 15:32; Lk. 10:2).
 - What does this mean for you as a follower of Jesus Christ, for the church, and for what needs to happen to continue the ministry of proclaiming, extending and expanding the gospel of the kingdom through church planting?
4. Jesus' calls the disciples to pray, which is the means by which laborers will be sent into the harvest, and to be the agents through which his ministry continues.
 - "therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (9:38; cf. 4:19; 10:1-4; 28:18-20).
 - What does this mean for you as a follower of Jesus Christ, for the church, and for what needs to happen to continue the ministry of proclaiming, extending and expanding the gospel of the kingdom through church planting?



IMPLICATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

1. This is a universal mission, so for us we seek to be faithful locally with a commitment to seeing Christ being worshipped globally.
2. The mission is compelled by the compassion of Christ, and for us it is also compelled by a passion for Christ and a love for people.
3. God's harvest demands workers, which means we engage in prayer for workers to go into the harvest fields, and we are willing to be the answer to those prayers.
4. There is a connection between mission and prayer, with the mission being God's work and with prayer being our primary task – prayer is faith in action as we trust and obey.
5. Since "God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself," and since Christ has promised to build his church, and since we are committed to raising up a generation of disciplemakers who are extending gospel ministry, strengthening, revitalizing and planting churches among all people, on this day when we focus on church-planting, what are you doing to model the compassion of Christ in the evangelizing of people with the goal of planting churches?

In conclusion, as people committed to the gospel of Jesus Christ, we must also be committed to its bearing fruit in the planting of churches. One concludes, "The relationship between gospel proclamation and church planting is so intimate it cannot be divorced without doing violence to the mission of the church. The primary mission of the church is to proclaim the gospel and gather believers into local churches where they can be strengthened in their faith and made effective in service. God has placed within all churches the potential to grow and reproduce. In fact, church planting is the most effective means of evangelism and church growth."

