“What Does it Take to be Sent?”

**Matt. 9:35-38; Matt. 28:18-20**

(notes based on the sermon by Pastor Eric Abisror, Mission Worker from Cordoba, Argentina, speaking at Hayden Bible Church, 2/20/22)

 Christ provides the model of what it is to be a missionary. He provides our example of what it is to be an evangelist. As we read Matt. 9:35-38, we see how He demonstrates this in His **actions,** His **attitude**, and His **authority**.

 During His earthly ministry, Jesus’ actions included teaching, proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom, and healing. In today’s passage we find Him teaching in the synagogues. One of His most common appellations was “teacher.” He cared that the people He talked to had the correct beliefs. Truth matters now just as it did back 2,000 years ago. Pastor Eric told us that there is a “theological famine” across the developing world. Many pastors lack the proper resources to study and teach the Bible. Jesus also proclaimed the gospel of the Kingdom: Repent, Believe, and Follow Jesus. To put it another way, our greatest problem is sin, and the only solution is the gospel of Jesus Christ. Even in 2022 there are still some 7,000 people groups who have not heard this gospel. Jesus’ actions also included healing. His healing was to demonstrate His identity as the Son of God. (Q1)

 Jesus’ attitude was one of compassion. Compassion means “moved in the inward parts toward others because of their desperate state.” At times He was moved by people’s hunger or physical needs (Matt. 14:14; 15:32), or as in Matt. 9:36, He had compassion because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Their religious leaders had failed them. Ezekiel spoke against leaders like this in Ezekiel 34:4. Not only did they not deal with their people by showing compassion, but they opened the door to false teaching. Jesus is not like that. Read John 10:11-17. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and He is our example to follow. (Q2) (Q3)

 How do we respond to the lost in our world in 2022? What motivates our evangelism? Are we moved to compassion when we see people dying in their sinful state, the same state that we have been so graciously saved from? Do we have compassion like Jesus did, or are we motivated by the need to be right? Or the need to be successful? Or the need to have others think highly of us? Christ, our Savior and our example, was motivated by COMPASSION!

 The final characteristic brought up in today’s passage is Christ’s authority. In verse 38 He commands His disciples to pray for more workers for the harvest. In Matt. 10:5ff, Jesus sends His disciples to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, empowering them to do mighty miracles. In The Great Commission of Matt. 28:18-20, He commands His disciples (and us!) to GO and make disciples, and teach them to observe all that He has commanded. He can make commands like this because He has ALL authority (Matt. 28:18). We can be ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinth. 5:20-21) because He commands us and He has all authority to command us. We don’t have to be timid. If someone has a problem with the gospel message, just say, “Bring it up with my Boss!” One more thing… Look at Mark 5:19. We don’t have to be learned or fancy. Jesus tells us to just tell people “all the great things God has done for **YOU** and how He has had mercy on **YOU**.” Tell **YOUR** salvation story.

 Pastor Eric ended with some practical ways to be involved with global missions:

1. Think strategically on how you can share the gospel in your building, with your family, with people you know.
2. Who can you pray for? Write their names down. Ask the Lord for an opportunity to share the gospel with them.
3. Commit to being an evangelist right where you live.
4. Find ways to pray for missionaries.
5. Love your local church and serve it well. Pray for your leaders. Be a light in your community.

God, we thank you that while we were still caught up in a lifestyle of sin, you sent Jesus to die in our place. Help us spread that life-giving message here and around the world. Amen. (Q4)

**QUESTIONS**:

1. Why didn’t Jesus heal every sickness? Why did He often tell those He healed to “tell no one”?
2. Who do you know whose life is marked by compassion (and not criticism)? What would it take to be more like them?
3. Read 1 Peter 5:1-3. What are the characteristics of a bad shepherd? What are the characteristics of a good shepherd?
4. Pastor Eric asked us to pray for Matti and Yvonna, a young couple pastoring in a very dark community in northern Argentina. As a group, pray for them, as well as other missionaries you support.

“We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations” (H. Ernest Nichol)

 We’ve a story to tell to the nations,

 That shall turn their hearts to the right,

 A story of truth and mercy,

 A story of peace and light,

 A story of peace and light.

 Refrain:

 For the darkness shall turn to dawning,

 And the dawning to noonday bright;

 And Christ’s great kingdom shall come on earth,

 The kingdom of love and light.

 We’ve a message to give to the nations,

 That the Lord who reigns up above

 Has sent us His Son to save us

 And show us that God is love,

 And show us that God is love.