

Compassion: Our Motive for Doing Justice

Matthew 9:36-38

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Compassion is having sympathy for another person’s problems.

Compassion is considering what it must be like to be in another person’s situation.

Compassion sees other’s pain and desires to alleviate it.

Jesus is our model for serving humanity with compassion.

I. Jesus had compassion because the people He saw were harassed and helpless (v.36).

- A. Some had physical limitations (Matthew 9:2)
- B. Some had been isolated by religious people (Matthew 9:9-11)
- C. Some were distraught because their loved ones had died (Matthew 9:18)
- D. Some had dealt with incurable diseases for years (Matthew 9:20)
- E. Some couldn’t speak because of demon possession (Matthew 9:32)

II. We are to have compassion for the harassed and helpless in our world.

Poor education is a justice issue that continues the cycle of poverty for low-income families.

The cost of healthcare is a justice issue that is having a devastating impact on the middle class.

Discriminatory practices toward convicted felons is a justice issue that forces individuals back into a life of crime.

III. Jesus’ compassion provoked him to prayer and to send out His disciples (v.38).

Prayer changes things!

Jesus taught His disciples to be consistent in prayer.

Luke 18:1 (TLB) says, “*One day Jesus told his disciples a story to illustrate their need for constant prayer and to show them that they must keep praying until the answer comes.*”

Jesus not only prayed for the people, but He sent His disciples out to harvest the souls by meeting their needs. (Matthew 10:7-8)

IV. We have to ask God which harvest field we are assigned to.

Mark 16:15 says, “And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.”

Each system represents a harvest field that we can do justice in.

- A. In Arts and Entertainment
- B. In Business
- C. In Congregations
- D. In Direct Media
- E. In Education
- F. In Families
- G. In Government

Let us remember that compassion is our motive for doing justice!