**Bless Every Home: Care ( Matthew 9:35-38)**

Brian Autry 10/21/2018 @Grove

SERMON BUMPER VIDEO

**Intro: Mr. Rogers**

* Born in Pennsylvania, 40 miles east of Philadelphia, he studied music composition in college. In the 1950’s he worked as a puppeteer on a television show. In 1963 he was ordained as a Presbyterian minister, specifically charged to work with children and families.
* He worked many years in the television industry, and in 2002, President Bush presented him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, recognizing his contribution to society. Every year his mother would knit him a sweater, making sure that she made his sweater with a zipper on the front.
* He would be imitated on Saturday Night Live, mingle with various public figures, and event spoke at my wife’s college graduation at NC State.
* But most of all, you remember him asking you and me a very familiar question, “Won’t you be my neighbor?” For Fred McFeely Rogers, Mr. Rogers, he was gripped with a defining passion, to teach children and families that they should be compassionate toward one another, encouraging us to be good neighbors.
* In 1995 interview he said, “I have never really considered myself a t.v. star, I always thought I was a neighbor who just came for a visit.”

**The Lord Jesus told us in Matthew 22:37–39, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**

Last Sunday: Bless Every Home – Pray. This Sunday: Bless Every Home – Care.

**READ Matthew 9:35-38 and PRAY.**

**C. H. Spurgeon** said that verse 38 weighed on his heart more than any other text in the Bible! He said that it haunted him perpetually (*Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit* [Pilgrim Publications], 19:466).

**THE POINT: We need to see as Jesus saw and feel as Jesus felt so that we will do as Jesus did.**

Verse 35 gives us a summary of Jesus’ ministry at that time (almost identical with Matt. 4:23). He was going through all of the villages, teaching, proclaiming the gospel, and healing every kind of disease and sickness.

Then, verses 36-38 report a specific incident on one of those occasions, when Jesus saw the crowds, perhaps as they approached Him, felt compassion for them, and then gave this charge to His disciples.

**THREE LESSONS – first…**

**1. We need to see as Jesus saw.**

Presumably, Jesus and the disciples saw the same scene: the approaching crowd of people. But Jesus saw them with different eyes than the disciples did.

It would have been easy to have just seen “nameless faces.” You “look” at them, but you don’t “see” them.

\*\*\***Word Study “SAW”** - it means more than observing with your eyes, means paying attention in your mind and being touched in your heart. He looked at the people. But He saw more than a crowd. The Lord Jesus saw souls. He saw a multitude of souls.

**Illus: *Big trucks on Interstate or highways: Sign “If you can’t see my mirrors, I can’t see you.” We have a blind spot if we are driving. Some cars now have sensors that will go off if you have a car in your blind spot. We have to beware of our blindspots as churches and as followers of Jesus.***

* GIVE EXAMPLES OF NEED

**LOSTNESS and DARKNESS across Virginia.** Across America. Across the world. There is tremendous need all around us.

**Man Trapped Inside ATM Cries for Help to Customers**

A visitor to a Bank of America in Corpus Christi experienced a rather rough afternoon recently. He was a contractor, there to install a lock on the bank's service room ATM. While he was inside the ATM, the door closed behind him—and then wouldn't open. And he'd left his phone in the truck.

According to news reports, "He had no one to call and no way to make his voice heard intelligibly through the machine." What did he have? Pen and paper.

"So people are coming by and using the ATM machine because it's still operational," a local police officer explained, "and he's slipping notes through the ATM, through where you would get your receipt."

One of the notes read, "Please help. I'm stuck in here and I don't have my phone. Please call my boss."

Most customers believed it was a prank—until "a good Samaritan took the situation seriously and contacted the cops," who also initially believed it was a prank.

Eventually, however, the man was freed.

As one officer put it, "It was just crazy."

**LUKE 10 – THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN**

***Jesus saw lost people as sheep without a shepherd.***

**#1. We need to see as Jesus saw. #2… We need to feel as Jesus felt…**

**2. We need to feel as Jesus felt.**

Note the link in verse 36, “Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them….”

**As Jesus looked out He was moved with compassion. "moved with compassion."**

This term comes from a word in which we get our modern word "spleen" from - the idea is that it got Jesus in His gut. Deep down inside, Jesus felt for these people. He felt compassion for them.

**Illus:**  When we see the scenes of a disaster. We feel for them. Compassion.

**The metaphor of "sheep without a shepherd" is used.** They are hurting and helpless. Fatigued and forlorn. Dejected and deserted. Exhausted and exposed. It is literally "torn and thrown down."

* ***Jesus saw lost people as HARASSED.***“troubled” or “vexed.”
* ***Jesus saw lost people as HELPLESS****.* The word means, “downcast” or “thrown down.” It points to the utterly helpless and forsaken condition of people who are lost in sin without the Savior.
* **Philip Keller, in *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23* describes how sheep can get turned over on their backs and not be able to get up by themselves again. Such sheep are called “cast” or “cast down” sheep (p. 60). These sheep flail at the air with their legs, but they can’t get back on their feet without the aid of the shepherd. Left in this condition, helpless and vulnerable to their enemies, they will die after a few hours or days.**
* Sheep will eat dirt if they are not led to grass. They will die of thirst not realizing that water is a hundred feet away.
* **NEVER SEE A PACK OF WILD SHEEP???** Domestic sheep need a shepherd.

**What is compassion? (Illustration - Interaction)**

Let's play this, I will say a word and say the opposite...

-fast >>> slow

-hot >>> cold

-high >>> low

-young >>> old

-soft >>> hard

-rich >>> poor

* ***compassion >>> apathy*** (what would you put there?)

**Merriam-Webster dictionary defines compassion as:** sympathetic consciousness of others’ distress together with a desire to alleviate it. It’s not just saying, “Wow. That really stinks. It must be terrible being you.” It is entering into someone else’s pain and really feeling it and resolving to do something about it. We care because Jesus cares and our caring is not a decision it is a response to Jesus’ compassion. We love others because He first loved us.

**Illustration: In a sad way, we can often watch the late night news and then roll over and go right off to sleep. We can pretty easily get over the spiritual needs of those around us. Kind of like the bad news on the television - we just turn the channel.**

**We need to feel as Jesus felt. #3 - We need to do as Jesus did.**

**3. We need to do as Jesus did.**

Matthew 9:37–38 - 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.”

**ILLUS: \*\*\*My mom grew up on a farm. I can remember going to visit my grandparents and seeing my grandad out on the tractor harvesting. CRISIS. WE NEED TO DO WHAT JESUS DID.**

**JESUS SERVED.**

Verse 35:

* **Jesus’ METHOD: *“went...”*** Our Lord God is the missionary God. No one ever went further or sacrificed more than Our Lord. **Phil 2, He humbled Himself and came to us.**
* **His MISSION FIELD: *“ALL”*** neighbors and nations.
* **His MINISTRY.** 1st - teaching in the synagogues. Teaching in church. 2nd - he proclaimed the gospel in the marketplace. We can also have a ministry outside. 3rd - healing among the people. Jesus ministered to people anywhere and everywhere.
* **His MESSAGE: is described in ONE way:** \*\*\*GOSPEL\*\*\* good news. euangelion = evangelism. Sharing a good message.

**JESUS PRAYED.**

* Here Jesus has made a prayer request of us, and we can answer it.
* Prayer is a good place to start. It will get our hearts right before good and check out our motivations. This word 'Pray earnestly' = pleading.
* **Every Christian is ASKED to pray. Every Christian can ANSWER this prayer. Isn't that something. Usually we make a prayer request and Jesus answers it.**

**JESUS SENDS US.**

Verse 38 "send out" - literally "to throw out." "force out."

**JIM ELLIOT, MISSIONARY TO AUCA INDIANS IN PERU: “our young men are going into other fields because they don’t feel called to the mission field. We don’t need a call, we need a kick in the pants.” (Exalting Jesus in Matt commentary, 134)**

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, andto the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8, ESV)

**Carl F.H. Henry said - "It is only good news if it gets there in time."**

**Illustration:** Listen: a harvest is alway a crisis. -Harvest: Green > Ripe > Rotten.

**CLOSING** MY GRANDDAD RIDING TRACTOR ON THE FIELD. HE WOULD INVITE ME TO RIDE WITH HIM.