

## Lesson 12: Review of Matthew 9:35-10:10: "Pain, Practicality and Pleasure"

That we have been saved **from** the wrath of God through faith in Jesus is good news. That we are saved **for** God in Christ is the highest point of the Gospel! But do you think very often of what are the practical implications of having a very personal relationship with God in Christ? To be sure Jesus called us into relationship with Himself but this also means that we follow Him. When you believed on the Lord did you consider that Jesus is actively at work fulfilling the will of God on earth to this very moment? Did you consider that this means that you would be part of God's work in fulfilling His will on earth? It is the scope of this lesson to cause you to become aware of the command to follow and also to grasp the "realness" of what following Jesus means: that it is often painful, is very practical but is filled with deep abiding pleasure and assurance! Matthew 9:35-10:10 and the next lesson makes this abundantly clear.

Have you ever considered that God has a burden? Not a burden in the sense that the results are up for grabs, but a burden to bring in His children out of the darkness and into His light through the ministry of the Gospel. This burden includes the saving and sanctifying of His people through faith in Jesus!

Seeing this burden through the eyes of Jesus in Matthew 9:35-38 gives us insight to the heart of God. Jesus is moved with *compassion* as He looks out over the proverbial *sea of people* represented by Israel. I am convinced that Jesus does not see *all* people as harassed as helpless (though all are harassed and helpless) but He sees *His Sheep* (see John 10:2-5) as being harassed and helpless! And, though He sees them within the sea of people He is burdened for His own. So, in this context of Matthew 9:35ff we see Jesus *call* His disciples to the field of service to minister the message of the Good News to all men so that those Jesus came to save would come. So, as they followed Jesus into the "field" they would begin to share His pain for His lost sheep, and the pleasure of doing God's will.

The pain is not like a hurt finger resulting from a hammer, but the pain of compassion. The Greek word for *compassion* is a word that describes a deep ache in the core of one's being, or like a mother yearning for her crying baby. Can you imagine that Jesus would "feel" for His Sheep in such a way? Yet, this being true it would also become the burden of His disciples. A good principle to apply at this point says that a Christ-like passion in us will reveal a deep-in-the-soul desire for *His Sheep* to come under *His* tender mercies and saving grace. Is there a growing "compassion" in your inner person, which compels you to minister the Gospel to others? If not, will you ask for the Lord Jesus to help?

Christ-like passion has a practical aspect too. We know that its easy to *feel*, but Christ-like passion gets things done, too! First, God provides the workers. Matthew 9:38 tells us the Lord Himself sends people into the harvest field. The second practical aspect is communication of the Good News. Those He calls He equips for communicating the message. Matthew 9:35 and 10:6-7 tell us that the message was communicated through teaching and preaching. Thirdly, a true Christ-like passion will overflow in prayer--communicating with God (9:38). Fourth, it is the Lord Jesus who not only calls people but also endows them with gifts for service as we see in Matthew 10:1. And fifth, those who have been called express their passion for Christ through their willingness to "go" where He sends them (10:5ff)!

Listen carefully. Perhaps you are certain that you have a Christ-like passion but are not called to "go". Compassion wells up within you as you long to see *His Sheep* come to Him through faith in the Gospel. What can you do? There is much you can do for Christ. For example, if you are not **sent** into service you can and should **provide** for those who devote themselves to service. As William Carey said, "I will go...but you must hold the rope for me!" There are those who go down into the dark well and the rest must hold the rope! To what are you called to do? Will you do it with Christ-like passion?

Finally, consider *pleasure* associated with having a Christ-like passion. I think every Christian should expect goal a growing pleasure in service of Christ. The pleasure we speak of is the very "pleasure of Christ". Christ's pleasure was derived from His communion with Father. This means that He was in perfect unity with very will of God. Is it possible for you and me to experience the pleasure of God in Christ? Yes. But, let me ask you, are you satisfied with Christ? To be satisfied with Him is to be one with him in Spirit and purpose. In John 17:21 Jesus prayed with great joy asking The Father that we should be in unity with the Godhead. This can mean nothing less than having a passion for God that flows out of the pleasure we derive from being in unity with Him: having His person be our pleasure! It transcends all the "blessings" of life of power of heaven and anything else God gives because we have Him! In other words, the pleasure of God surpasses anything we think we could ever "get" from Him because we have God! Would you pray that grace would abound in your life that you may enjoy fellowship with God in Christ which abounds in a joyful life of service to Christ!

## Questions for Matthew 10:5-31 “Mission Risks and Rewards”

1. From the notes on page 1, **A)** what impressed and/or helped you? **B)** Explain “A”.

### Introduction to Matthew 10:5-31:

In this passage Jesus sent His disciples out on a mission of announcing that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. In his wonderful commentary<sup>1</sup> Fredrick Bruner provides three clear sections for this text that I found perfectly helpful, so I pass them on to you. In the first section Jesus gives the disciples “Travel Instructions” (vv.5-16). In the second, Jesus gave them “Trouble Instructions” (vv17-25). And in the third section Jesus provided “Trust Instructions” (vv.26-31).

2. Read Matthew 10:5-16. “Travel Instructions”. **A)** What specific instructions did Jesus give the 12 in 10:5-6? **B)** How did Jesus’ instructions change just before He ascended to heaven? (see Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8) **C)** What were they instructed to do? (vv.7-8a) **D)** Read vv.8b-10. Why would Jesus not want them to take anything with them on their Mission? **E)** What did Jesus tell them to do if people didn’t receive the message? (see 11-13a) **F)** What surprises you about 10:16?

3. Read Matthew 10:16-25. “Trouble Instructions”. **A)** Read 10:16 again. What four “creatures” does Jesus use to describe different aspects of Christian work? What do each of these “symbols” mean to you? **B)** What “trouble” is predicted in 10:17-18? What “promise” is provided in 10:19-20? **C)** What “trouble” is predicted in 10:21-23? What “promises” do you find in these same verses? **D)** What possible reasons can you think of why Jesus made the statement he did in 10:22a? **E)** Thinking of your answer(s) in part “D”, how do the following references form, reinforce or change your thinking: John 3:19; John 15:21; 2 Corinthians 4:4. **F)** What did Jesus mean in 10:25? How can you apply this to our point in American history?

4. Read Matthew 10:26-31. “Trust Instructions”. **A)** The NIV and other translations begin 10:26 with “So, don’t be afraid of them.” or “Therefore...”. If you link this statement with 10:25 why should the 12 not be afraid? **B)** What other verses in this section tell us “don’t be afraid” or something like it? **C)** In these verses write down all the reasons given why you and I should not be afraid of people when we are telling about Jesus? **D)** What situations or people in your life cause you the most fear? Which promise given by Jesus in 10:26-31 could you “stand on” and why?

<sup>1</sup> Fredrick Bruner, “The Christbook; Matthew’s Gospel, Vol. 1”; (Eerdmans, 2004; pp.480-85)