

Matthew 9:35-38

1. Review who the Pharisees were and how they were responding to Jesus (3,11,34). What was their problem? (3:7-10; 9:12-13,17)
2. In contrast to them, where did Jesus go, and why was it so important for him to be among the people like this? (35a; 1:23; 2:6; 15:24)
3. In verse 35b, what does it mean that Jesus was “proclaiming the good news of the kingdom,” and why was he also “healing every disease and sickness”? (compare with 4:3; see also 3:2; 4:17; 12:18-21) How does his example show us what we should be doing for people today?
4. How did Jesus see the crowds, and what does this show us about those times? (36; 14:14; 15:32) Think about the meaning of: “harassed”; “helpless”; “like sheep without a shepherd” (Nu 27:17). How might some people have seen such crowds? Why is it so important to see people with the compassion of Jesus?
5. What did Jesus say to his disciples? (37) What did he mean by “the harvest”? (Jn 4:35) What does it mean to be a “worker,” and why are they so few? In light of this, what else did Jesus say to his disciples? (38) How and why should we be praying like this today?
6. What title and key verse would you choose for this passage, and why?