

Message by Pastor John Johnson

June 18-19, 2011

Seeing the World as God Sees It

Matthew 9:35-38

Questions for Life Groups:

Jesus came to introduce the Kingdom of God. Thus far in Matthew He has shown us glimpses of His kingdom as life as God intended it to be. Jesus has revealed His authority over His kingdom and His mission to rescue and reconnect humanity to God; to bring heaven to earth and bring earth back to heaven. Yet, with all of Jesus' power and authority, in this passage He announces the need for us to pray for others who will rise up and join Him in His mission.

1. Read Matthew 9:35-38. When Jesus saw the crowd, what emotion overcame Him? The sermon notes give us a definition of this word as an "emotional force so strong that Jesus' heart, his gut and His insides went out to submit to and embrace the pain" the crowd was in. What does the text reveal as the reason Jesus was so overcome? Have you ever felt that kind of compassion for people? Can you share that with your group?
2. In verse 37 Jesus tells His disciples (and us) to pray for more workers. The sermon suggests that we pray for three things.
 - a. First, pray to have the heart of God. What words would you use to describe the heart of God? What words would you not use? Jesus was moved by the pain He saw and it wrecked Him. What wrecks you when you see people acting out of their pain? What words would you use to describe your heart: Compassion, fear, anger, love, disgust, mercy, judgment, other emotions?
 - b. Second, pray for a sense of urgency. The harvest is ready ... NOW! What will you do now as a result of this text and the message?

- c. Third, pray that God will raise up workers. This suggests that the potential workers are there, just not engaged in the work. How do you know when God is “raising you up?”
3. The harvest is plentiful; it is everywhere all over the world. Do you see it? Where do you see it? Will you go?
4. What specific thing did you take away from this text and message?