

Welcome Home
Motivation for Missions
10/7/2018 Sunday AM

Scripture: Matthew 9:35-39

Introduction

- Last week we discussed **The Effects of Unrepentant Sin.**
- The Bible calls us to “repent” of our sins which means to “turn away” from them.
- Unrepentant sin effects our prayer life and our prosperity as well.
- God hears what we pray, but he may ignore what he hears. Unrepentant sin will hurt our witness for God.
- We have a real problem in the world today with people not being serious about sin, it is being embraced and celebrated rather than being turned away from.
- This morning we will discuss **Motivation for Missions**
- Statistics show that approximately 103 people die every minute without knowing Jesus Christ.
- To put that into perspective, from the beginning to the end of our service is approximately 1.5 hours, that means 9,270 people around the world die without knowing Jesus while we sit in church.
- Combine that truth with another statistic. The most generous numbers say that only 1 out of every 3 Christians will share their faith at least once in a lifetime.
- American Christians give over \$700 million per year to mission agencies which sounds like a lot, however we spend that much on pet food every other month in this country.
- The church has gotten into a “come and see” mentality instead of a “go and tell” mindset.
- We will look at three motivations for missions as we read our passage this morning.

Matthew 9:35-39

³⁵Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

I. The motivation of love and compassion.

- In v.35 we see Jesus was out and about going through all of the towns and villages.
- He would stop at the synagogue and would preach the good news and heal people.
- As v. 36 indicates, crowds of people would gather wherever Jesus was.
- We see this throughout the New Testament where Jesus would have thousands of people in attendance while he taught and ministered.
- V. 36 tells us that “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them.” Jesus noticed the people that were around him, he did not turn a blind-eye to them.
- He knew their circumstances of being “harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”
- Jesus has compassion on people that are down-and-out in this world.
- He noticed the people around him and the needs that they had. He was attentive, because of the love and compassion that he has for people.
- **Do you love people and have compassion for their circumstances?**

II. The motivation of the calling of the Master

- Jesus had just identified that the people gathered
- with him were “like sheep without a shepherd.”
- In vv. 37 Jesus identifies a problem at that time, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.”
- That was true in Jesus’ time, and it is certainly true in our world today.

- As stated earlier, people are dying without Christ at a rate of 103 per minute, yet only 33% of Christians will share their faith at least once in their lifetime.
- How do we fix this? Jesus gives us the answer in v.38, he says “Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”
- We should constantly be in prayer that God would send workers out into his “harvest field.”
- However, when we pray, we must also be willing to answer that call ourselves.
- Jesus has commissioned and called every believer to be active in missions, local and/or abroad.
- This should give us tremendous motivation to know that Jesus has called every one of us to be co-laborers with him.
- It is not a chore, it is a privilege to be able to serve God in such a way that transforms the lives of individuals.
- **Are you willing to be a worker?**

III. The motivation of worship

- Hudson Taylor was the director of the China Inland Mission and he often interviewed candidates for the mission field. On one occasion, he met with a group of applicants to determine their motivations for service. "And why do you wish to go as a foreign missionary?" he asked one. "I want to go because Christ has commanded us to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," was the reply. Another said, "I want to go because millions are perishing without Christ." Others gave different answers. Then Hudson Taylor said, "All of these motives, however good, will fail you in times of testings, trials, tribulations, and possible death. There is but one motive that will sustain you in trial and testing; namely, the love of Christ".
- Although this motivation is not specially mentioned in our passage this morning, it is implied nonetheless.
- In order for us to really become workers for God in his harvest fields, we must be people that worship God passionately.
- Our personal walk with God must be one where we worship and praise God with every fiber of our being.
- Once our relationship with God grounded in who He is and not who we are, only then will we be able to be involved in missions.
- Missions takes be selfless, one that is selfish will not likely do well ministering to others.
- Are you like CT Studd who said, “Some wish to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell”?
- Have you been called by God? Are you one of those workers to go into the field?
- Do you love God so much that you want to spread His glory to the nations?
- Does the worship of God motivate you to evangelism?
- Think about it this way, how many of those 103 people per minute could possibly be someone in your family or sphere of influence?
- Let’s be a people that “go and tell” not simply a people that say “come and see.”

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Study of the Book of Romans Romans 3:1-8