

Putting Compassion into Action Discussion Questions

Matthew 9:35-38

Rev. Brian Bill

October 4-5, 2025

1. Share one truth you learned during our Go Conference last weekend. What is God teaching you through this sermon series so far? Be specific.
2. What does Matthew 9:35 tell us about the priority Jesus gave to teaching, preaching, and healing? How does this reflect His heart for people? In what ways can we become more “holistic” in our approach to individuals?
3. How would you describe the crowds Jesus saw in verse 36 in your own words? Do you slow down enough to see people as harassed and helpless or do you hurry on your way? In what ways are people today “harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd?”
4. How did seeing people as hurting lead Jesus to feel compassion for them? How can we see people like Jesus does? Why do you think we get upset with people who sin differently than we do?
5. Discuss this statement, “You have never looked into the eyes of someone who does not matter to God.” In what ways can we learn to look into people’s eyes?
6. Spend some time listing other passages where people are referred to as sheep (see Psalm 23, Isaiah 53:6; John 10:11; Luke 15:4-7; 1 Peter 2:25). In what ways is this a good metaphor to keep in our minds?
7. What does Jesus mean by “the harvest is plentiful”? What does the “harvest” represent? How does this relate to John 4:35?
8. What are some reasons why the “laborers are few” when it comes to ministry and missions? How can we overcome these?
9. Why do you think Jesus emphasizes prayer (“pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest”) instead of immediately sending the disciples into the harvest? What is the role of prayer in raising up more missionaries today?
10. Have you ever prayed for God to send out workers into the harvest? If so, what happened? What does it look like to be an answer to the prayer Jesus calls us to pray in verse 38? Is there a specific person, group, or place where God may be calling you to serve or share His love?
11. How can Edgewood be more intentional about raising up and sending workers into God’s harvest field? In what ways will you become more purposeful?
12. As a way to apply this message, pull out your phone and set a daily alarm for 9:38 to remind you to pray for God to send workers into His harvest.