

**Connection with Unit Theme:** To complement the small group study Going Out, these sermon outlines use a different Scripture passage than the small group study, so the pastor can reinforce the main point from the pulpit. It is one thing to become a welcoming church when people come to you. It is quite another to take the spirit of hospitality outside our own walls. Christians have struggled with this for years. Matthew 9:36-38 serves as motivation for us to go out.

### Introduction:

Picture the siren on top of an ambulance. One revolution of the siren of an ambulance is approximately the rate at which people across the world die without knowing Jesus. That means that 103 people every minute go into eternity without hope.

Combine that truth with another statistic. It has been said that only 1% of Christians will share the gospel with an unbeliever in their lifetime. I believe that is a bit low. The most generous statistic I have heard is that roughly 1 out of every 3 Christians will share their faith at least once in a lifetime. It's tough to share the gospel for some people. So what about giving to missions? A recent stat had Americans giving over \$700 million per year to mission agencies. That sounds like a ton but we spend that much in pet food every 52 days.

What will motivate the church to move from a "come and see" mindset to a "go and tell" mindset? We must have a culture where we value taking the gospel to the nations instead of hoping people come to us. Matthew 9:36-38 outlines three motivations for missions.

#### 1. The motivation of love and compassion

Notice in verse 36 that Jesus "saw the crowds". Don't skip over that. ". Jesus could have easily not seen them. He could have easily turned a blind eye to them. But Jesus saw them. That means that they had Jesus' attention. Whenever we have Jesus' attention it means something is going to happen. When Jesus notices something it brings about a result. He doesn't just turn His head but He does something. He notices them. Do we notice?

Also catch what happens when Jesus notices them. He is moved to compassion. The word used here for compassion is one that doesn't appear in the writing of classical Greek writers. It's a word that biblical writers coined—maybe even because Jesus' compassion was so emotional, and so different that they had to come up with a different word. The word in its verb form appears here and eleven more times in the New Testament. Each time it is significant because each time it moves to action. When Jesus sees hungry sheep he feeds them. Love and compassion calls us to do what is necessary to reach the lost.

#### 2. The motivation of the calling of the Master

What Jesus does when he sees hungry sheep is he calls more shepherds. Notice specifically what this text calls us to do. We are commissioned to pray for workers. For the longest time I added a word to this text for some reason. I used to think it said, "more workers". I applied this as if it was Jesus saying, "we need new workers to go out into the fields". But that isn't what this text says. What he is saying here is essentially pray that those whom I've already saved would get busy with their work.

Certainly we ought to pray for new workers. But this is a call to pray that God would prick our hearts and give us a passion for evangelism. This is a call for our joy of salvation to be restored and for us to develop a deep passion for His name and glory to be spread to the nation. If you are a Christian you are called by the master into this harvest.

### **3. The motivation of worship**

When Hudson Taylor was director of the China Inland Mission, 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".

This point is not explicit in the text but it lies underneath the entire verse and context. The disciples would not have been following Christ had it not been for love. You don't pray earnestly for God to send unless you've got a really big God that you worship passionately. In fact you don't even care about the lost unless you're enthralled by God. The only thing that will keep you from being so focused on self (because that is what missions takes) is to be enthralled with Christ.

### **Conclusion:**

I am reminded of a quote by Charles Spurgeon. In the late 1800's he found himself in the middle of what was known as the Downgrade Controversy. Spurgeon saw that people were rejecting the biblical gospel and replacing it with something which would ultimately not lead to salvation. He saw that God's glory was being defamed and that souls were being lost. Towards the end of his life Spurgeon, as a way of passing the torch to others to continue in this mission, said this:

"It is time that somebody should spring his rattle, and call attention to the way in which God is being robbed of his glory, and man of his hope."

Is that you? Does the love of unbelievers cause to burn within? 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? And lastly, do you so love God so much that you want to spread His glory to the nations? Does the worship of God motivate you to evangelism?

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