



## LESSON 4 DEVOTION 1

**“WHEN HE SAW THE CROWDS, HE HAD COMPASSION ON THEM, BECAUSE THEY WERE HARASSED AND HELPLESS, LIKE SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPHERD. THEN HE SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, ‘THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL BUT THE WORKERS ARE FEW. ASK THE LORD OF THE HARVEST, THEREFORE, TO SEND OUT WORKERS INTO HIS HARVEST FIELD.’” - MATTHEW 9:36-38**

Imagine standing on a farm, looking out over a field of perfectly ripe corn. (Maybe you live in Kansas and you do this regularly. The rest of us will have to use our imaginations.) The seeds that were planted what seems like an eternity ago have grown into fully formed plants. Disease and insects didn't kill them off. They didn't die from too much or too little rain. The crop has grown perfectly. And now, the moment is here. Now is the exact time to harvest the crop.

Except imagine how frustrating it would be to not see anyone harvesting the fields. Imagine day after day, seeing the crops wither and wilt, just waiting on someone to come along and pick it.

This is how Jesus felt when He saw the Israelites. Except the stakes were far higher than a wasted corn crop.

Jesus knew the time was perfect to “harvest the fields.” He saw the people. He knew they were hurting and lost. And He knew that they were ready to come to Him in faith. He was looking at a massive soul harvest. But He needed workers to go out into the fields.

You are Christ's worker. Part of your identity as a Christ-follower is a worker for Jesus' fields of people hungry for the Gospel. Jesus wants you to be a part of His plan. The question is, will you? Will you have compassion for the lost and commit to going out in the “fields” to help lead the lost to Jesus?

## LESSON 4 DEVOTION 2

“Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.”  
Colossians 3:12

Jesus' desire to meet the needs of the people He encountered was born out of His compassion for them.

What does it mean to be compassionate? It means not only noticing other people's situation, but wanting to do something about it. Because He is compassionate, Jesus wants to see people come to faith in Him.

What about you? Do you have compassion for others? It's an interesting thought, maybe one you haven't considered in a while. Or ever.

Today, think about how you would answer these questions:

- Are you a compassionate person? Or does it not come easy for you?
- Why is it hard to always feel compassion for others?
- Who in your life needs the hope and the purpose God can give?
- How can you show compassion to this person?
- What will it take for you to commit to following through with helping this person feel the love of God through you?

## LESSON 4 DEVOTION 3

You are a part of God's plan for making His message of hope known to the world.

All through the Bible, God's people, His Church, are seen as the way in which the lost will come to be found. God works through His people on this earth to make sure all people have a chance to know Him. And you are part of this group.

What does this make you feel like?

Is your life being lived in such a way that you are bringing people to Christ?

What are some of the bigger things that stand in the way from you being a more powerful messenger of Jesus' story?

Think about this question as you go through your day. Ask yourself, “What do I need to be doing in order to be a powerful resource for sharing God's message?”