

By His Spirit...We Witness Courageously!

Text: Matthew 9:35-38

November 5, 2022

Big Idea: Because Jesus loves the lost, we must witness courageously to them.

Context is key!

Question #1 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is going on in the text?

- a) What is the setting and what is happening?
- b) Who are the main characters?
- c) Are there any words/phrases that are repeated?

Question #2 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What does the text say about God and about me?

- a) Is God saying or showing something about Himself? If so, what?
- b) Do the words in the text predict, prophesy or picture something about Jesus? If so, what?
- c) Is God saying or showing something about us? If so, what?
- d) How does the text point to my need for Jesus? How?

Question #3 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What are the principles, commands or promises given?

- a) What is the overall theme of the text?
- b) Does the passage include any promise from God? If so, what?

Question #4 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is the application?

- a) What is one specific way I can live by these truths, or trust in these promises today?
- b) What is the next step that I need to take to see this happen?

Question #5

- a) **Rd. Acts 1:8:** How does the Holy Spirit equip us for a life of courageous evangelism?
- b) Is it possible to live a life of courageous witness without Him? Why or why not?
- c) What does this mean for us if we are to live this way?

A life of courageous witness will increasingly...

Truth 1: POSSESS Christ's MOTIVE: COMPASSION (vv. 35-36)

Question: Compassion for the lost is the heart of witness. Do you see them as Jesus does?

Question #6

- a) **Rd v. 36:** How did Jesus respond when He saw the crowds coming to Him? Why?
- b) What does the term "compassion" mean as it is used in this verse?
- c) Why do you struggle to feel the same compassion towards unbelievers that Jesus did?
- d) How does the gospel equip you to overcome these areas?

Question #7

David Platt said, "The kind of courageous witness that Scripture calls for will not be a reality in our lives until we see the lost as Jesus sees them."

- a) How does the Word of God help us see the lost as Jesus sees them?
- b) How does prayer help us grow in the heart of God for the lost?
- c) How does obedience to God's Word help us grow in loving the lost as Jesus does?

Truth 2: PRAY for Christ's MEANS: LABOURERS (vv. 37-38)

Question: A life of witness pleads, "Send them Lord!" Am I pleading for labourers?

Question #8

- a) What does it mean that God is Lord of the harvest?
- b) Why should this give us confidence in living a life of courageous witness?
- c) Since God is the Lord of the harvest, does this mean we can be apathetic in our witness? Why not?
- d) Christ commands us to pray earnestly for Him to send out more labourers into His harvest. Spend time daily praying earnestly for this during the week individually and as a small group.

Question #9

- a) What are some of your biggest fears or hesitations when it comes to sharing the gospel?
- b) When you respond in fear or reluctance, what are you believing about God? About yourself? About that person?
- c) Find at least 2 promises God gives us through the gospel, that address your fear/hesitation.

Question #10

- a) Write out the gospel in your own words.
- b) Write it out again in one sentence as if you only had 30 seconds to share it.
- c) *What harvest field does God have you right now that He has called you to share the gospel in?*
- d) Use the 'Top Ten List' included in your small group questions, and write down the names of the people who God has put around you to share the gospel with.
- e) Spend time in prayer as a group over all of those names!

Prayer Application

Spend time as a group or in accountability praying out of **Matthew 9:35-38**. Some prompts are below.

- a) ADORATION: Lord, I praise you, because you are...
- b) CONFESSION: Lord, I confess...i) Lack of compassion/love for the lost as shown through my... ii) My lack of prayer for labourers for the harvest
- c) THANKSGIVING: Lord, thank you for...i) Love for the lost ii) Power to witness iii) Answering Prayer
- d) SUPPLICATION: Lord, I ask for...i) Faith over Fear in witnessing ii) Power to witness iii) Your compassion for the lost iv) You to raise up myself and other labourers for the harvest

Memory Verse:

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest."

Matthew 9:37-38

