

Matt. 9:35-38 – ³⁵Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming 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.”

Matt. 10:1,5-8 – ¹He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. . . . ⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. ⁷As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’ ⁸Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.”

I. It was Love that Motivated God the Father to Send Jesus Christ to Re-Establish His Kingdom Reign on Earth (Matt. 9:35-36).

Luke 4:18-19 - ¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

A. God's great love is the reason Jesus came to engage a lost world (vs. 35, Luke 4:18-19; John 3:16; 1 Tim. 1:15).

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

1 Tim. 1:15-16 - ¹⁵Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.

B. The love and compassion of Christ Jesus was the distinguishing characteristic of His ministry to people (vs. 36).

II. The Disciples of Jesus are Commanded to Continue the Ministry of Jesus with the Same Approach (Matt. 10:37-38).

A. The Scripture shows continuity between Jesus' ministry and that of His disciples (vs. 37, John 20:21).

Matt. 24:14 - And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Luke 10:8-9 - When you enter a town . . . heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God is near you.’

John 20:21 – As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.

John 14:12 - I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

Acts 6:8 – Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people.

Acts 8:6 – When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said.

B. Gifts of healing and miracles were given to the disciples of Jesus so they could minister in the harvest like Jesus (vs. 38, 1 Cor. 12).

1 Cor. 12: 7-10 - To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good . . . to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom . . . to another gifts of healing, to another workings of miracles.

1 Cor. 12:28 - God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings . . .

1 Cor. 12:31 – But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.

III. The Church Continues the Ministry of Jesus with His Compassion and Power (Matt. 10:1,5-8).

Matt. 10:1 - He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

A. The disciples received Jesus' authority for ministering to people with the same motivating love of God (vs. 1, 1 Cor. 13).

B. The fulfillment of the law of God is living out the love of God to those around us (vs. 5-6).

C. It must be love that motivates Jesus' disciples to advance the KOG by ministering with all the gifts available to us (vs. 7-8).

Questions for further study and review:

1. What things motivate people in this world? What motivates you?
2. Read Matt. 9:35-10:8. Explain the motivation behind everything that Jesus did (vs. 36). Do you agree with point IB? Why or why not?
3. Do you agree with point II and its subpoints above? Review the Scriptures given. What others come to mind?
4. Do you agree with point III above? Why or why not? Do you believe such gifts are given to Jesus' disciples today? Why or why not? Read 1 Cor. 13. What must be the underlying motivator for believers of Jesus today as they minister the gospel? Why?
5. Do you believe that the gifts of healing and miracles help in the proclamation of the gospel today? Why or why not?
6. Reflect and answer the question: What one thing can I do this week that would show the love of Jesus to someone who doesn't know Him?