

## Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

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Matthew 9:35-10:8

June 17, 2018

### Learn to see the ultimate humanitarian crisis.

- The humanitarian crisis caused by Harvey, Irma, Jose, Maria, wild fires, volcanos, earthquakes, mug slides
- The humanitarian crisis of war: Somalia, Sudan, Syria
- Massive - mind boggling. Zero in on individuals - our hearts ache, tears
  - ♦ In time - images fade - compassion too
  - ♦ Crisis fatigue = compassion fatigue, overwhelmed, move on...
- Anyone can see these. We need to be trained to...

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<sup>36</sup> *When he saw the crowds, he felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd.* CSB

- ❖ See the *distressed* and *dejected* with Jesus' eyes and heart
  - **distressed** - root: *flay, slice* - like sheep driven through thorns, cut, bloody
  - **dejected** - root: *thrown off, abandoned* - treated as disposable, rejects
  - Religion of rules and regulations - Israel spiritual *leaders (destroyers)*
    - ♦ Run people ragged - thrown down (not lift up) - destroy
    - ♦ Ruthless to the disabled, poor, downcast - chased away
  - A frank and serious look at our sin of the past & our current wretchedness
    - ♦ *Amazing grace, that saved (saves) a wretch like me*
    - ♦ Prevents us from dismissing atheists, agnostics, wiccans, Christians straying from the Scripture as lost and not worth our time or prayers.
      - *There but for the grace of God, go I.* John Bradford 1510-1555
  - To blame the victims of spiritual abuse (by others or self) doesn't help.
    - ♦ See their hurt, confusion, burdens - need for Jesus' life and light
    - ♦ *Lost sheep* - literally: *destroyed* - ruled and ruined by sin's mindset
  - Will you share Jesus' passion for compassion in this crisis?
- ❖ Compassion's passion begs God to gather the destroyed under his care.
  - Their helplessness and our inability to save brings us to our knees.
  - We know the compassionate passion of Jesus, the Father, and Holy Spirit
    - ♦ *We love because he first loved us.* 1 John 4:19
  - <sup>38</sup> *Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest.* CSB - NIV: *Ask...*
    - ♦ *pray: beg, plead* - a heart that sees the ultimate humanitarian crisis
    - ♦ *send out: throw out, hurl* - Send the rescue squad in. The need is **now!**

- Consider what happens when you: *See, Care, Plead*
  - ♦ You're changed. Your heart is honed to share Jesus' passion & mission.
  - ♦ A missionary, when asked what they could do for the mission
    - *Simply pray for the mission 15 minutes a day. ...But it will cost you.*
    - When asked to explain since prayers doesn't cost anything
    - Pray - the mission will steal your heart, cost you time, then financial support, and in time your children. Prayer helps you...

### Learn to see the ultimate humanitarian crisis.

- ❖ Realize you're being ripened to go rescue.
  - Discover the difference Jesus makes dealing with *distress* and *dejection*
    - ♦ Freed from guilt and fear of punishment by Jesus' forgiveness
      - Yoked to Jesus, our burden is removed - we find rest and peace
    - ♦ *Dejected* by others, even family, even self - God accepts me in Jesus.
      - We belong in his family - never orphaned or discarded!
  - What's the common thread: *scattered sheep, ripe grain, kingdom is near?*
    - ♦ Being gathered - taken in - under God's eternal faithful care
    - ♦ Sheep gathered into God's flock - to be faithfully shepherded
    - ♦ Ripe grain gathered safely in a granary - lest it spoil, rot, fall away
    - ♦ God's kingdom: gathered under this reign of care, love, life with God.
      - <sup>15</sup> *...He who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.* <sup>16</sup> *They will never be hungry or thirsty ever again. The sun will never beat upon them, nor will any scorching heat,* <sup>17</sup> *for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd. He will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.* Revelation 7
        - This protective kingdom of care is as near as Jesus and his gospel.
        - The more you taste and know his care - the better prepared you are to be part of God's rescue squad - on call
    - There's nothing like a Mission Trip to experience this.
      - ♦ <https://wels.net/missionjourneys/>

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