

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map
Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Matthew 9:35-10:8
June 28, 2020

Do you see what Jesus sees?

- In December we hear, *Do you see what I see?*
 - ◆ A fanciful tale of a night wind, little lamb, shepherd boy, & mighty king
 - Not fancifully here: Jesus asks his disciples, **Do you see what I see?**
 - ³⁶ *When [Jesus] saw the crowds, he was moved with compassion for them, because they were troubled and downcast, like sheep without a shepherd.*
 - ◆ Jesus didn't see his popularity. He didn't get overwhelmed by the mob.
 - ◆ Jesus saw *hurting humans* - individuals *troubled and downcast*
 - **troubled** - weary, bothered, grievously afflicted
 - Some with diseases and disabilities. Other *just* with life, guilt, worry
 - **downcast** - put down, cast off, rejected, discarded, *throwaways*
 - People left to live and die in misery. No care. No help. Not valued.
 - ❖ We see hurting humans when it's about them, not about us.
 - Sad: leaders (church & state) so absorbed with self - don't see the hurting
 - Sad: God's people dismiss the poor, hurting, oppressed as stranger/others
 - Jesus didn't love us because we're special or better. Sinners = his enemies
 - ◆ We confess that our sin makes us poor impoverished throwaways
 - ◆ Freely w/o merit Jesus rescued us making us children of God.
 - ◆ Look at the masses of people: India, Africa, Iran, refugees of Syrian & Palestinian, those fleeing the violence and poverty of Central and South America, those hurting in America from job loss, poverty, oppression
 - ◆ If we do not see ourselves in them, we do not see what Jesus sees.
 - ◆ If our heart doesn't go out to the hurting, we've lost our humanity.
 - The more I see my pitiful condition - the more I see that in others.
 - ◆ The more I cling to my Savior Jesus and want others to know his help.
 - ❖ *No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care.*
 - Why this crowd of needy? Jesus was different. He **cared** about them.
 - ◆ Note what came first! He taught and proclaimed, addressing the hurting.
 - He revealed a Father who cares, forgives, gathers, gives peace & hope.
 - ◆ Then he showed care and God's power to overturn the curse of sin.
 - Jesus showed he can cure every disease & disability. Here's hope.
 - He cares. His word guarantees a disability free eternity for his own.
 - Offer Jesus without care, it looks like we're imposing our way on others.
 - ◆ Offer care without Jesus, address physical needs, not the critical need.
 - ◆ Our world missions have taught us this. Bore holes, food, medicine, etc.
 - ◆ God's word reveals his love and makes sense of a world of troubles.
- ³⁷ *Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.*
³⁸ *Therefore pray that the Lord of the harvest will send out workers into his harvest."*

Do you see what Jesus sees?

- When grain is ripe, ready to be gathered in, it's critical to gather it then.
- People who are hurting, are ripe for God's care, love, and word.
- Recognize their needs are just like ours, we want them gathered to Jesus.
- ❖ Caught up in Christ's care, we'll beg the Lord to send harvest helpers.
 - *pray* seems weak to me. Jesus says: ***beg, plead, be a pest, implore***
 - Those who see how **big** the need is, **beg**. This can't wait. It's critical.
 - *the Lord of the harvest* - it belongs to him. It's his reputation. He does it.
 - ◆ The workers use his divine authority, his powerful word. It alone works.
 - If we're not constantly begging - we don't see what Jesus sees!
 - ◆ We're overlooking or ignoring the need. Treating people as *throwaways*
 - ◆ We've missed: Jesus charges us to beg. God listens. It keeps our focus.
- ❖ Such care ends up enriching you and me too.
 - The only reason we beg, is because we see our common need for Jesus
 - ◆ This prioritizes our daily need for him & recognizes that need in others
 - Begging for workers, harvest helpers, resources to help and support
 - ◆ Reminds us of the work that lasts - endures beyond death & destruction
 - ◆ It's the reason God cares. It's the reason we care.
 - Realizing the role of the gospel in helping the needy - it's what we need.
 - ◆ But, how can we do the work Jesus did without healing powers?
 - ◆ The role of healing showed God's approval and power to rescue.
 - ◆ The word of God helps the troubled by revealing:
 - The cause of troubles and death: sin - It's not = God's rejection
 - God uses troubles to lead people to see they need his help and rescue
 - God uses troubles to mature and enrich his people.
 - As I **see what Jesus sees**
 - ◆ My focus is taken off how they hurt me, to see their captivity to sin.
 - ◆ The more I see their captivity the more I have a heart, forgive, pray for

Learning to **see what Jesus sees**, rescues me, fills my life with an eternal purpose, and makes me a force for change as God's kingdom reigns in and through me. God enriches our lives as we ask ourselves and invite others:

Do you see what Jesus sees?