

A Task Unfinished

Date: August 28, 2016

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Intro: As we read each month when we take the Lord's Supper together, "*For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes*" (I Cor. 11:26). Our task is to proclaim the Lord's death (the gospel). When is our task finished? We're to continue "till He comes." This is referring to the coming of our Lord for His bride, the church! We call this event *the rapture*. This is when we are called up to meet our Lord in the air. The task isn't finished then. Let's look at how our Lord ministered while He was here and what we can learn in how we should minister ourselves.

Matthew 9:35-38 *"Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. 36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. 37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."*

I. He Went to the People – vs. 35

- A. He initiated it
- B. He entered their setting
- C. He went to them all sorts of ways – teaching, preaching, healing

II. He Saw the Multitudes – vs. 36

Matthew 9:36 *"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd."*

Note: Have you noticed that there is a difference between hearing and listening? Likewise, one can see someone but not see who they really are.

- A. Christ actually saw them individually
- B. Christ saw more than what is observable
- C. Jesus saw them as having no shepherd
- D. Ask God to help you see people not by what is outside, but inside

III. He Had Compassion On Them – vs. 36b**IV. He Spoke to Them – vs. 37-38****Questions:**

1. What do people usually see in others? Have you ever been guilty of judging people based on their appearance and not trying to see the person inside?
2. What is *your* mission field? Are there people in *your* mission field that may be more difficult to love because of their harsh personality or external appearance? What might happen if God let you see them from His perspective?
3. As you feel led, name some people you would love for God to save. Then ask Him to use you in reaching out in love to them. Ask Him to let you see them differently – through His eyes.

Prayer: *“Father, thank You for loving me and dying for me when I wasn’t loveable and worth dying for. Thank You for leaving me here to continue the mission of proclaiming Your message of good news to others. You have placed me in a mission field for this purpose. There are people around me from my immediate family, extended family, close friends, neighbours and work colleagues, to casual acquaintances who need to hear of You. Help me to see these people through your eyes I pray in Jesus name, amen!”*