



# EAGLE'S LANDING

First Baptist Church

## Compassion Sunday // Sermon

*The Compassion of Jesus // Matthew 9:35-38*

**Goodness, today has already been an incredible day.**

- I hope you had a chance to walk through the Compassion Experience —it's incredible!

**If you have your Bible, turn with me to the gospel of **Matthew**.**

- We will be in **Matthew 9:35-38**.

**Before we read our text, let me set the stage for why today matters:**

When we slow down long enough to see the world as it really is, we're confronted with a level of suffering that demands a response from the people of God.

- **Every 30 seconds, a child dies from a preventable disease.** <sup>1</sup>
- **19,000 children die daily because of poverty.**
- **2,195 children die every day because of something as simple as diarrhea.** \*No access to Pedialyte or Gatorade and no access to basic care.
- **10,000 newborns in developing countries die within the first 30 days of life.**
- **1.1 billion people lack access to clean drinking water.**
- **Sixty-seven million elementary-aged kids cannot attend school.**

\*No education = No opportunity.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/child-mortality-under-5-years?](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/child-mortality-under-5-years?utm_source=chatgpt.com)  
[utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/child-mortality-under-5-years?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

- **2.4 billion people live on less than \$2 per day.**

This is why we wanted to enter a partnership with Compassion International.

- Because true compassion doesn't stop with emotion – **it moves to action.**

**Matthew 9 gives us a window into the heart of Christ.**

- As Jesus walked through cities and villages, He didn't see statistics—He saw souls.
- He didn't see crowds—He saw mothers, fathers, and children...

**And the Bible says, “He had compassion on them.”**

**Big Idea: *To see as Jesus sees is to love as Jesus loves.***

**Matthew 9:35–38:**

[35] And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. [36] When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. [37] Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; [38] therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

**I want to show you three (3) things in this text:**

**1. The ministry of compassion.**

[35] And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.

**I love this verse because it's a snapshot of who Jesus is.**

- It's a picture of his heart.

**Matthew says, “*Jesus went.*”**

- Those are the key words in this verse: ***Jesus went.***

**Jesus moves toward people.**

- He *went*—He didn't wait for the hurting to find Him.
- He *went* – He didn't stay comfortable in one place.

- He *went* – because that’s what compassion does – it moves.

**It’s the rhythm of the gospel.**

- From heaven to earth – from glory to the manger – from the throne to the cross – *Jesus went*.

**This is called *incarnational compassion* – it’s a love that moves toward need.**

**This is more than just a verse about Jesus – it’s a call to imitate the life of Christ.**

- This verse is an echo of the Great Commission.

**Jesus is showing us what it looks like to *live sent*.**

**Jesus took initiative.**

- He became deeply intentional.
- He didn’t just see the problem – He became the solution – He stepped into them.

**Why?** Because that’s what compassion does.

***Compassion doesn’t sit still; it steps out.***

**Now, notice two things about Jesus’ ministry: Jesus ministered in both *word* and *deed*.**

- He *shared* the gospel, and he *showed* the gospel.

See, the gospel isn’t just something we *say* – it’s something we *show*.

**Real compassion is *both visible and verbal*.**

- *You can see it, and you can hear it.*

**Tim Keller once said: *Mercy is the proof that we understand grace*.**

- When we’ve truly encountered the grace of God, we can’t help but become messengers of mercy.

**Grace received becomes grace expressed!**

**This is what Compassion International does so beautifully.**

- They go to the need.
- They don’t wait for the need to come to them – they move toward the need.

They go into the cities and villages of this world – into poverty, into pain, into the hard places of the world – and they bring the gospel of Jesus in both word and deed.

### The ministry of compassion.

#### 2. The motive of compassion.

Verse 35 shows us *what* Jesus did.

Next, we will see *why* Jesus did it.

[36] When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

**Matthew says:** When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them...

The word *compassion* means “to be moved in the inner parts” – to feel something so deeply you can’t stay still.

- It’s not pity.
- It’s not a passing emotion.

**It’s divine empathy that demands action.**

**When Jesus looked upon the lost, the needy, and the broken, He was moved deeply in His soul.**

- He *felt* the darkness of the blind.
- He *felt* the pain of the sick.
- He *felt* the weakness of the crippled.
- He *felt* the leper’s isolation.
- Jesus *felt* the sorrow of the grieving.

**He was not detached or distant—he entered their pain.**

- He was moved with compassion—not a passing feeling but a deep stirring of divine mercy.<sup>2</sup>

#### Why was Jesus moved?

Matthew tells us: [36] ... because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Those two words – *harassed* and *helpless* – paint a heartbreaking picture.

- *Harassed* means **wounded, torn apart, beaten** – like a sheep among wolves.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://hbcharlesjr.com/resource-library/sermon-outlines/hands-for-the-harvest-matthew-935-38/>

- *Helpless* means **cast down, unable to rise— like a sheep lying on its back, powerless.**

In other words, Jesus saw people who were *bruised by life* and *broken by sin*.

- They were shepherd-less sheep—souls with no direction and no hope.

**But here's the good news: Jesus *saw them*.**

- He didn't overlook them or ignore them.
- He didn't avoid them or scroll past them.

**He saw their physical and spiritual condition—and His heart broke for them. He had *compassion for them*.**

**“If you want to be like Jesus, you must care for those who are weary and scattered; you must see them as He saw them.” - Charles Spurgeon<sup>3</sup>**

**You must see their hurt, their hunger, and their hopelessness.**

- And He didn't just see them, He felt for them.

**Listen – *Compassion happens when our hearts begin to feel what our eyes see.***

**When we stop to consider the pressing needs of children in poverty around the world, do we see what Jesus sees? Do we feel what Jesus feels?**

- Do we see a burden or an opportunity?
- Do we see a statistic or a soul?

**Are our hearts like Jesus—and move toward them?**

**The motive of compassion.**

### **3. The mission of compassion.**

[37] Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; [38] therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out (drive out) laborers into his harvest.”

**Notice what Jesus does: He turns compassion into commission.**

- He turned his burden for the broken into a call from God.

**He said: *The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few...***

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<sup>3</sup> Charles Spurgeon, *The Compassion of the Christ*.

**The problem has never been the harvest – Jesus said the harvest is plentiful.**

- The problem is the laborers—the ones willing to go.
- The ones willing to see what Jesus sees...
- The ones willing to love the way Jesus loves.

**And this is what He is saying to our church today.**

- The same Jesus who walked through cities and villages healing the sick is now calling us to continue His work.

**“There is no shortage of the harvest; the shortage is in those who are willing to reap it.” - D.A. Carson<sup>4</sup>**

**Church family, Jesus is still looking.**

- He sees children all over the world in desperate need of healing and help.

He sees kids all over the world in need of hope.

- Some need food.
- Some need safety.
- Some need a friend.

**But all need Jesus!**

**And God, in His mercy, is saying, “You can be the answer!”**

**“We must be like Jesus – deeply moved by the world’s pain yet never paralyzed by it. Compassion must lead to action.” - John Stott<sup>5</sup>**

**We can’t fix every problem in the world.**

- But we can change the world for a child.

**You remember the story of the little girl and the starfish?**

- One morning, a man was walking along the beach after a strong storm.

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<sup>4</sup> D.A. Carson, *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*.

<sup>5</sup> John Stott, *Christian Mission in the Modern World*.

- The tide had gone out, and thousands of starfish were stranded on the sand – for miles.

As he walked, he saw a little girl – maybe eight – picking up starfish and throwing them back into the ocean.

- The man said, “Sweetheart, there are thousands upon thousands of starfish on this beach...you can’t make a difference for them all.”
- The girl took another starfish in her hand, tossed it in the ocean, looked at the man, and said, “I made a difference for that one.”

**That’s what compassion looks like.**

- We can’t change the world – but we can change the world for one child.

**We can write then, pray for them, sponsor them, and show them the love of Jesus.**

**Today is not about charity. It’s about compassion.**

- It’s not about money. It’s about mission.

**There’s a packet waiting for you.**

- **There’s a child waiting for you.**
- **There is a story that God is ready to rewrite – through you!**

**Guatemala. DR. Uganda. Kenya.**

### **BULLPEN:**

E. Stanly Jones pleaded with a group of young people in India. “Why will you not become Christians? What do you think of Christ?” “Your Christ is wonderful,” a young man answered. “But you Christians are not like him.”

- We must see what Jesus sees:** *The harvest is plentiful. The need is great.*
- We must pray as Jesus commands:** *pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest.*
- We must go where Jesus sends:** *We must put our feet to the gospel.*