

Vision Sunday Message

Introduction: How Jesus sees people has never changed. He saw them as sheep without a shepherd - harassed, helpless, confused, aimless, distressed, dejected. Jesus responded with compassion which means that He had to do something about it... Jesus could not NOT do something... because that's what compassion does. How Jesus saw people, is how He wants us to see them - not in a negative, condescending way, but in a way that causes us to pray, act and bless - ie. bring hope, help and healing.

Read: Matthew 9:35 - 10:1.

Ice Breaker: (Pick one for the whole group) When you are aware of the need of another person, what emotions are stirred in you? OR... describe a time that you received compassion. What was the situation? What was it like to receive it? What emotions and thoughts did it engender in you?

Ask and Reflect

- Our vision is: *"Expressing Jesus' love & truth in the community bringing hope, help and healing to thousands."* Which word, phrase or idea moves you? Which particular word(s) do you immediately connect with? Why?
- Read Ephesians 1:22-23 in The Message... "the world is peripheral to the church...". How does this speak into your life? What needs to change for you and your commitments to see you fit into God's plan more fully? Do you see church as the centre of your plans, or peripheral (closer to the edge)?
- ***"Wherever there's need, there's opportunity"*** Is this how you see need, or do you see it as something to keep at arms length? Or for someone else to fulfil?
- *"Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."* (Matthew 9:38 NIV) - When was the last time you prayed for God to send people out to reach lost people, and bring hope, healing and help to others?
- In Matthew 10:1 - it says that Jesus gave His disciples authority to do miracles and drive out evil spirits. As His disciples today, he has empowered us to do what seems impossible. How do you feel about this truth? What holds you back from being more bold in ministry?

Keeping the main thing the main thing...

If you read Matthew 9 you will realise that Jesus didn't go seeking a single opportunity for ministry. He simply did whatever God engineered for him in the moment. Is it possible that God is constantly engineering circumstances for us daily to bring hope, help and healing to everyone we meet? Do we miss it because we are too occupied with life, or on our own "mission"? We need to fully embrace every opportunity to be Jesus to someone... that's what our vision is about, because that is what Christ has called every believer to.