Of One Accord

Title –Moved With Compassion

Purpose/Review

Did you invite someone to church this week…?

STORY-

By now I'm sure that we've all heard of the temporary shutdown of the airports…?
After thinking about… Why are they stopping air traffic
I began to think of the mayhem at the airports

Imagine being on a connecting flight from Dallas to Roanoke
With a 2-hour layover in Atlanta

What if that shutdown occurred during that 2-hour layover
Imagine spending the night in an airport terminal

I'm sure that many others had those thoughts
Compassion for those whose travel plans were disrupted

What is the number one emotion of Jesus most often mentioned in the Gospels…?

Compassion…. (Good… you were able to connect the dots)

Compassion(English)–a feeling of sorrow or pity; sympathy

Compassion(Bible Greek)**-** Literally, a suffering with another

By one account…

Compassion is mentioned 145 times in the Old Testament
Over 65 references to God's compassion

And in the Gospels…

It is mentioned of Jesus feeling compassion 7 times
And expressing the idea of compassion another 7 times

SERMON TITLE – Moved with Compassion

Our reading is from the Gospel of Matthewat the end of chapter 9

If we read it in context… we see that just prior to our reading..

Jesus had healed a paralytic… called a tax collector
Healed a woman who had a bleeding disorder

Comforted a synagogue official by raising his daughter back to life…

Gave sight to two blind men
Drove out a demon that had possessed a man

Matthew begins to finish this narration by condensing all that Jesus was doing…

Matthew 9
35 Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

Whew… when did He ever take a break….

Is it any wonder that Matthew ends this narration…

- With comments towards His Disciples

Reading

Matthew 9 NKJV
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.

Doctrinal

Multitude – a throng of people; a mass of people

The bible repeatedly tells us that…

The crowds that followed Jesus were exceptionally large
That sometimes He had to climb onto a hilltop to address the large crowds
Or climb into a boat to prevent from being crushed

Mark 3
7 Jesus withdrew to the sea with His disciples; and a great multitude from Galilee followed… 9 And He told His disciples that a boat should stand ready for Him because of the crowd, so that they would not crowd Him

Elsewhere we read of Jesus being moved with compassion because the people had nothing to eat…

Mark 8
1 In those days, when there was again a large crowd and they had nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples and said to them, 2 I feel compassion for the people because they have remained with Me now three days and have nothing to eat.

NOTE-
In all of the mentions of Jesus being moved with compassion
His compassion caused Him to do something

Even though large crowds followed Him, Jesus still had time for the individual…

Mark 1
40 And a leper came to Jesus, beseeching Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying, If You are willing, You can make me clean. 41 Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, I am willing; be cleansed. 42 Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

Elsewhere He felt compassion for a lost and lonely widow who's only son had just died…

OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO Luke 7:11-15

Luke 7
11 Soon afterwards He went to a city called Nain; and His disciples were going along with Him, accompanied by a large crowd. 12 Now as He approached the gate of the city, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a sizeable crowd from the city was with her. 13 When the Lord saw her, He felt compassion for her, and said to her, Do not weep. 14 And He came up and touched the coffin; and the bearers came to a halt. And He said, Young man, I say to you, arise! 15 The dead man sat up and began to speak. And Jesus gave him back to his mother.

Jesus was…Moved with compassion for a mom
Moved with compassion for a lepper
Moved with a compassion over lack of food

QUESTION-
What is the reason for Jesus having compassion within our reading…?

Application

Jesus did not just feel compassion… He was moved with compassion

We can observe three actions by Jesus…

Moved With Compassion
1) Jesus saw the multitudes

NOTE-
Today we might say that Jesus was a people person
Always mentally alert to catch sight of people
And to perceive their spiritual needs

1 Samuel 16
7… for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

NOTE-
Christians are called to actively try to emulate Christ
By seeing all people as eternal souls for whom Jesus died
For we are all image-bearers of the One True God
Ultimately, the Bible instructs Christians to see people as God sees them

We are to look beyondtheir appearances and value their eternal destiny

We must develop eyes to see…

Moved With Compassion
1) Jesus saw the multitudes
2) Jesus recognized their spiritual plight

Matthew 9 NKJV
36… because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

Paul tells us why so many around us are weary and scattered…

2 Corinthians 4
3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO Luke 13:34

Luke 13
34 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it!

One of those beautiful moments when you can hear the heart of God…

There is another time that we can hear the heart of God…

OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO Luke 19:41-44

Luke 19
41 When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, "If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. 43 For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, 44 and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.

Matthew 9
37… The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

Moved With Compassion
1) Jesus saw the multitudes
2) Jesus recognized their spiritual plight
3) Jesus calls us to act

Spiritual Readiness:(Bulletin)
The "harvest" represents people who are spiritually ripe and in need of truth, mercy, and salvation, indicating that the opportunity for evangelism is vast and ongoing.

HOPE- Expectation; trust; confidence.

STORY-
Sally and I were privileged to attend a birthday party for someone many of you know
This individual attended Cornerstone many years ago
He became the first Assistant Pastor of Cornerstone

But he is best known for being the Youth Pastor
And of course I'm talking about Jeff Copper

We listened to stories about Jeff's mission in life

Some of you know that Jeff was gifted with evangelism

He began a program at Cornerstone called FTO…. For Teens Only

Every Tuesday night he would take teens to the detention center
Often taking the teen band with them to ministers to teenagers who had lost their way

Jeff was a great example of being Spiritually ready
In season and out of season to proclaim the Gospel

Matthew 9
37… The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

Jeff knew that…

This verse makes 3 important points…

The Urgency and Scarcityof those Committed to the Harvest(Bulletin)
There is a critical gap between the massive need for the Gospel
And the few committed Christians actively engaged in spreading it
This truth creates a sense of urgent mission.

STORY-
Somewhere along my walk as a Christian
Long before I became a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
This verse speaks of an important truth

There is a great need for many around us to know Jesus
Yet there are very few dedicating their life to teaching about Jesus
This is why you will never hear me speak ill of another pastor… none of us should
They receive enough criticism from the world

Not every pastor has the gift of teaching… But they may be great evangelists
Not every pastor has the gift of speaking… but they are faithfully serving

We should never speak poorly about a pastor…

Instead… we should be praying for them

NOTE-

One of the best websites to find answers about the bible
Has something strong to say about those who remain silent

> If any Christian is not involved in gospel ministry, it is not because there is nothing for him to do; rather, is that he has chosen to sit on the sidelines instead of joining in the work that surrounds him. The harvest is plentiful… **GotQuestions.org**

The second point our reading makes is…

Call to Prayer and Action: (Bulletin)
Jesus commanded His disciples to pray earnestly
To the Lord of the harvest to send out more workers into the fields

The solution to the labor shortage is divine empowerment
And personal commitment to the work of God.

Instead of praying for more people to be saved

We should pray that more people actively share the gospel…

Practical Approach-

Many of us have someone very close to us who simply will not listen to us
We are too close to them

If you find yourself in this situation, then when praying for them
Pray for him or her to encounter more believers who will reach out with truth and love.

Or…

If we are dissatisfied with the way things are
We need to pray that God will send us out to make a difference.

LESSON-

There is a lesson that my mother taught me

It is one of those lessons that many will disagree with

But their disagreement reveals on which side of the coin they stand

LESSON – If you are not part of the solution… then you are part of the problem

The world needs to hear about the only source of true hope…

1 Peter 1

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

There is a loving God… Who wants nothing but the best for His creation

1 Corinthians 2

9 However, as it is written:What no eye has seen,what no ear has heard,and what no human mind has conceived, the things God has prepared for those who love Him

CLOSE