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Zion Assembly Church of God



Moved with Compassion

Jesus traveled through many towns and villages to teach and preach the Good News. As He looked out over the multitude of people who had gathered to hear Him preach, Jesus was “moved with compassion” (Mt. 9:36). What was it about the crowd that moved Him? It could have been the large number of people who had assembled. The Bible tells us that oftentimes there were thousands of people who gathered to hear Jesus preach. Perhaps it was the variety of age groups, for both young and old came to listen. Maybe Jesus was moved by their lack of spiritual understanding. He was aware that some of them had only come to see the miracles He would perform. Whatever the reason, Jesus saw the crowd of people and had compassion on them.

When Jesus saw the crowd, He saw people. In the midst of the huge gathering, He recognized that the sum was made up of many individuals. Each one represented a particular family situation, spiritual need, or physical problem. Jesus saw them as helpless and scattered like sheep without a shepherd. He realized someone had to care for the people and tend to their needs. This realization moved Him with compassion. Jesus related what He was seeing with His disciples, “The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few” (Mt. 9:37). He compared the multitude of people to a field ready for harvest, yet there were few workers to gather the ripened fruit. He asked His disciples to pray for more workers.

Jesus was on a mission. He went. He preached. He cared. Jesus felt sympathy for the many needs represented in the vast crowd. His compassion moved Him to action. His mission was to reach hurting people. When the Pharisees questioned why He visited with sinners, Jesus answered, “They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick” (Mt. 9:12). As He ministered to people, He longed for others to care

enough to enter into this labor with Him. Later, Jesus challenged His disciples to go throughout the whole world and preach the gospel (Mark 16:15).

Jesus' commission is for each of us today. Those who are truly His disciples will take action to carry the gospel message to those who have not heard. Answering this challenge means we must minister to the unique needs of each individual. Some preach in nations other than their own. Others may share the gospel with their next door neighbor or family member. Certain individuals feel a calling to minister in prisons, hospitals, or nursing homes. Many enjoy teaching and ministering to adults. Yet some focus their entire ministry on training children.

On this note, we all have a wonderful opportunity to minister to children during the upcoming Children's Day. Each year, Zion Assembly sets aside the first Sunday of June to celebrate children. This special day provides every local church the platform to focus on ministering to children. Every pastor and/or children's minister should design a service or event in order to reach out to the children in the local neighborhood or community. Remember to give the children something important to do on the program. Allow them to sing a song or quote a memory verse. You may choose to plan a picnic or meal to mark the occasion.

As you prepare for this celebration, remember that there is a multitude of hurting children who cannot defend themselves. Do you see them? They live all around you. These helpless ones need to be gathered, nurtured, and taught the Word of God. They are like sheep without a shepherd. Many of them are neglected and wounded. They have little hope for tomorrow. Let us be moved with compassion, care for these little ones, and give them hope in Jesus.

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