

Discussion Questions for Sunday, May 17, 2015

Pray With Us! (Matthew 9:35-38)

1. Jesus' compassion on the multitudes: Compassion is a strong emotional word. A combination of anger and sympathy for victims of a tragedy. Read these other examples of Jesus' compassion: Matthew 14:14 and Mark 6:34. Why did Jesus feel compassion for people?
2. Jesus' declaration regarding the harvest: Plentiful harvest (lots of lost people) and few workers (not many people working to reach the lost). Why do you think this is so? Why does God say it is so? (To find out, search the Scriptures!)
3. Jesus' instructions to pray: Beseech (beg or plead to) the Lord of the Harvest to send out workers into His harvest? How is this counterintuitive to our natural inclination with regard to outreach and missions? If we are not to recruit workers, what are we to do? What is Jesus getting at here? God is the source. He moves people to respond from the heart.
4. Discuss the term "send out" which here means to "thrust out violently". Check out Acts 13:3, that "send" (the church sending out workers) means to "release". Discuss the difference.
5. What examples do you recall from the sermon of people who practiced or did not practice Matthew 9:35-38?
6. How does knowing of Jesus' compassion, declaration, and instructions to pray increase your love for Jesus, others, and reaching the world with the gospel?
7. Why do believers have a heart for the nations?
8. What's your biggest takeaway from this sermon? Anything you will start doing differently?
9. Pray through the GCO prayer guide together.