



“Harrassed, Helpless or Hopeful”
Matthew 9:35-38

Our hearts go out when we see videos of abandoned pets. We find joy when we see those who are unwanted by their original owners, left on the road when they are placed in a loving caring home. How about people? When see images of those who are lost, abandoned, helpless, are we as moved to help them? How did Jesus treat those who he found were abandoned around him?

KEY VERSE: “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” (Matthew 9:36)

For Jesus, hope was never delivered from a distance, but up close and personal

How do I deliver hope to the hopeless?

I AM TO BE A DISCIPLE OF _____.
Read *Matthew 9:35-38*

I need to see people as _____ sees them.

Some definitions

Compassion- “being aware of the suffering of another and being moved to alleviate it”

“Harassed and helpless”- “Being flayed alive by life and tossed aside as worthless”

Matthew’s description of Jesus is that Jesus sees people as having their lives torn from them day by day and is moved to help them, physically and spiritually.

Read *Joel 2:13* and *James 2:16*. How do these verses instruct us as to our attitude to those who are helpless and how we should respond to them?

Read *Matthew 9:37*. What harvest is Jesus talking about? Where is my harvest and what am I doing about it?

I AM TO BE A DISCIPLE OF _____.
Read *Matthew 10:1-8*.

I can move forward with compassion and _____.

When I see a need, am I confident that I can do something? Where does my confidence come from?

I AM TO BE A DISCIPLE OF _____.
Read *Matthew 10:39*.

Helpless people need more _____, not _____

Am I seen by others around me as one who brings hope? In what ways do I do so?

In *John 10:11*, Jesus describes himself as the “good shepherd.” How does that encourage me as I look to be a person of hope to others?

What can I do to offer hope to the hopeless? Who can I ask to pray with me about my answer?

THIS WEEK:

- Am I moved more by sympathy, or compassion when I see someone in need?
- Am I seen as someone who brings hope or harassment to the helpless?
- Have I received the hope of Jesus in my life? How would anyone know?