

RADICAL
Part 3 – The Gospel Demands Radical Compassion
Matthew 9:35-10:42
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Two Ingredients of Radical Compassion...

- Supernatural **awareness** of the condition of the lost.
- Sacrificial **obedience** to the commission of Christ.

³⁵ And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:35-38

The Condition of the Lost...

- See their **size**.
Over **4.5 billion** people (including hundreds of thousands in the greater Phoenix area) today are on a road that leads to eternal hell.
- Feel their **suffering**.
- Realize their **separation**.

³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:37-38

This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. ⁸ He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power. 2 Thessalonians 1:7

If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:15

And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. Revelation 14:11

The Commission of Christ...

- Jesus beckons us to **pray**.
- Jesus summons us to **go**.

Instructions...

- Go to great **need**.
The diseased, dying, despised, dirty...

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. (v. 5-8)

As you go to the needy, you will learn to trust His **provision**.

⁹ Acquire no gold nor silver nor copper for your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, nor two tunics nor sandals nor a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. (v. 9-10)

- Go to great **danger**.
Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. (v. 16)

Be as **foolish** as sheep, as **smart** as snakes, as **pure** as doves.

¹⁹ When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰ For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. (v. 19-20)

As you go into danger, you will learn to depend on His **power**.

²¹ Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²² and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³ When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. (v. 21-23)

- You will be **betrayed, hated, and persecuted**.

The reality we must face: The danger of our lives increases in proportion to the **depth** of our relationship with Christ.

The question we must ask: Do we really want to **be like** Christ?

- Fear will **tempt** you.
²⁶ So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (v. 26-28)
- The Father will **take care** of you.
²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. (v. 29-31)
- Confess Him **publicly** and love Him **supremely**.
³² So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my

Father who is in heaven. ³⁴ "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶ And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. ³⁷ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (v. 32-38)

- Take the ultimate **risk** and find the ultimate **reward**.
³⁹ Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ⁴⁰ "Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. ⁴¹ The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. ⁴² And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward." (v. 39-42)

Radical Compassion...

The Gospel demands we **sacrifice** our lives for the sake of people who do not know Christ.