

## The Joy of Reaching Out

**Matt 9:35-38** - *Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on 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 workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*

### 1. Jesus made himself accessible to the crowds

Care is **revealed** in our **accessibility**.

### 2. Jesus took the time to observe the crowd.

Take the time to look around.

### 3. We have a responsibility to ask for workers from God.

**Matt 4:18** - *"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."*

We become leaders when we follow Christ.

**Luke 15:1-7** - *Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." 3 Then Jesus told them this parable: 4 "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? 5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders 6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' 7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. NIV*

Heaven rejoices over lost things being found.

### 1. Changed hearts see more clearly.

A **bad attitude** will always result in **blurry vision**.

**Ways you can participate in the great commission:**

- Pray the Lord of the harvest would send workers into the field.
- Pray for lost souls in this community and abroad.
- Get involved in ministry. Begin communicating God's love to those in need.
- Pay for the resources that are needed for those who are in the trenches.
- Make it a point to know unbelievers with the intention to be a witness for the Lord.

### 2. Priorities will either empower us or impede us.

Reaching the lost starts with priorities.

**Ps 2:8** - *Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance*

**3. Fulfillment is found in reaching out to others.**

**2 Cor 5:19** - *We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.*

**2 Cor 3:4-6** - *Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. 6 He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant-not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*

**Ps 126:5-6** - *Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. 6 He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.*

When we have planted properly, we can expect a harvest.