

Sermon Series Title: "The Office of Deacon"

Sermon Series Summary: We'll be taking a couple weeks to look at the heart, call, and qualifications of Deacon as we prepare for Elections.

Call: 2 Samuel 22:23-25

Text: Matthew 9:35-38

Title: "Servant and Service"

Next Week's Call: 2 Samuel 22:26

Next Week's Text: Judges 6-7

Next Week's Title: "How To Win Without Losing It All"

Future Calls: 2 Samuel 22:26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 47-49, 50-51

Future Titles: "Qualifications and Calling" (Acts 6:1-7, 1 Timothy 3:8-13), "Love" (Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a), "Joy" (Galatians 5:22-23)

Fallen Condition Focus: We don't serve, or we serve for the wrong reasons.

Christ redeeming FCF: Christ has had compassion on us and now empowers us to serve others with that compassion.

Central Truth: As we have been shown compassion in Christ, let us show compassion to His sheep in our service.

Summary: As we look forward to our elections, we are looking at the heart of service in our passage today. In it, we see that we are motivated by Jesus' compassion for His sheep. We are to be moved by the great need to pray for more laborers. And we are brought to the truth that we have been shown compassion through laborers in our story.

Reflective Questions:

1. What does it look like to have compassion on others? What does it not look like?
2. Why does Jesus tell his disciples to pray for more laborers, instead of just commanding them to do so?
3. What is the motivation behind our laboring?

## I. Introduction

### A. Hook- Deacon translated is servant

1. Throughout 2000 years, God has been calling and ordaining Deacons to serve the church and his kingdom.

### B. Translation- service has become a four-letter word

### C. Proposition

### D. Points

## II. The Heart of Service (vv. 35-36)

### A. Jesus goes through (imperfect tense- continuous) all the cities, teaching, proclaiming, and healing.

1. This is a good summary of what he has been doing, since he started his ministry in Matthew 4: teaching (chs. 5-7), healing and signs(chs. 8-9). This chapter alone we see a lot of healing with teaching sprinkled in.
2. This is the work that the church is involved with today.
  1. We are called to proclaim the gospel- Great Commission (baptize)
  2. We teach- Great Commission; teaching all that I have commanded
  3. Heal- healing through community; acts of mercy- throughout OT; Matthew 25 with the judgment on the Last Day- least of these, we did it to Jesus.

### B. He has compassion on them.

1. Compassion- gut feeling, deep sense of longing and sorrow
2. OT theme in describing God's heart.
3. In the Gospels, outside of the parables, this word is never used to describe men but Jesus. It's a mark of His Messiahship.

### C. Harassed and helpless sheep without a shepherd

1. Unlike goats who can take care of themselves
2. Harassed- flayed
3. Helpless- defenseless, cast down, vulnerable
4. OT reference to Ezekiel and Micah regarding shepherdless sheep
5. Sheep need shepherds for life, guidance, and protection.

### D. We are called to minister and to serve with this compassion in humility.

## III. The Harvest of Service (vv. 37-38)

### A. Jesus transitions from describing His people from being sheep to harvest.

### B. There is a great harvest. There is a great need. God has made hearts ready.

God is ready to bring the harvest in. But the laborers are few.

1. Humility- We don't grow the harvest. That is God's work.

2. Honor- we don't deserve such privilege and work, but God gives it to us. He could do it Himself, but He calls us to be a part of the work.
  1. This is right before sending out the 12 disciples.
  2. Jesus was doing the ministry up to this point, and even He calls these men for kingdom work. He allows broken, weak men to be part of the great work of the kingdom.
- C. Jesus doesn't give a pep talk or motivational speech. He calls us to pray.
  1. This is a call for everyone of us: to pray.
  2. But prayer also opens a window into God's heart. We get to see His compassion and grace. We get to see the compassion that has been poured out upon us. And God changes our hearts in the process.
  3. Missionaries who go are first moved to pray for missionaries. Pastors who are called are first moved to pray for the church.

#### IV. The Healer in our Service

- A. God is the One who is healing and moving and growing. We are to be jars of clay, instruments in the Redeemer's hands, because we know we have been saved by another's labors.
  1. Laborers have come into our lives and shared the gospel to bring us in.
  2. Jesus is the ultimate laborer who saved us in love.
- B. We are not motivated to serve because of fear or guilt, but we are motivated by compassion.
  1. Parable of the Talents- fear doesn't grow talents; love does.
- C. We are motivated by the love and compassion of God.
  1. We know that He has shown us compassion and love.
    1. He is the sheep that was slaughtered on the cross, so that He may be our shepherd and defense.
    2. He took on the fire of the cross like the chaff, so that we can be the wheat of His people.
  2. Jesus is the laborer who went out and finished the work of the cross to save us.
  3. Jesus is the ultimate Deacon, the Suffering Servant, who came not to be served but to serve and be a ransom for many.