

**Text: Matthew 9:35-38**

**Title: “Jesus Impacting our Community”**

Suppose that when Jesus came to this earth and began His ministry two-thousand years ago He didn't go to the villages on the northern tip of the Sea of Galilee, but He came to Texas ... to Fort Worth ... to South Fort Worth. What would He do? How would He spend His time, His energy, His power? Open your Bibles to Matthew 9:35 where we see exactly what Jesus was doing. **Read Matthew 9:35-38.**

**TWO-MILE MISSION GRAPHIC** – More than two years ago the Lord gave us a vision for what He wanted use us in what we call our Two-Mile Mission. It may be a little hard for you to make out, but this is our Two-Mile Mission. There's TCU on the west side, to the south you have a high concentration of Hispanic households, there's low-income families on the east and to the north is the hospital district and Magnolia entertainment district on the north. Yesterday tens of thousands of people packed along Magnolia for ArtsGoggle. Some of us volunteered to help with that event. You got a glimpse of fact that this is arguably one of the most economically and culturally diverse concentrations of humanity anywhere in our city. And we are going through the neighborhoods with Jesus, just like He went through the towns and villages of Galilee.

Matthew 9:35 says that Jesus was on the move teaching, preaching the Good News and healing disease and sickness. One of the ways that we walk with Jesus into our Two-Mile Mission is through something called Kids Hope. **Watch this: VIDEO**

**KIDS HOPE** - This is Rhea Nell Milrany. She coordinates our mentoring program with children at George C. Clarke Elementary, just a few blocks from our church. Rhea Nell, thank you for helping us tell the story of Kids Hope.

- How has Kids Hope expanded the ministry of the church?
- How is Kids Hope impacting George C. Clarke?
- What's involved in mentoring a student through Kids Hope?
- Thank you, Rhea Nell and all of the volunteers who serve. Out in the Welcome Center you will find a number of booths set up to tell you about how you can get involved with Kids Hope, with Good News Club and with the upcoming Capps Park Fall Festival where we connect with families in our neighborhood.

It's important for us to see that wherever Jesus was healing He was also preaching the Good News. He understood that humanities root problem is sin. And the Good News is that God saves people from their sin when they put their trust in Jesus Christ. So everything we do for the physical and emotional needs of people has to be wed to our Gospel witness. It's not enough just to be present, to *hang out* or to *help out*; we have to *hold out* the Gospel. Illnesses and diseases were an open door for Jesus to demonstrate His love and His power to overcome our greatest problem ... our sin.

**Matthew 9:36 - When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.**

It's like Jesus walked up on a scene like a terrorist bombing. People were dazed and disoriented. They don't know where to go for safety; they're helpless and scattered. And when we see crowds of hurting, helpless people like this sometimes we don't know what to do. We are overwhelmed. Jesus saw them and had compassion on them. He felt mercy toward them. And as we walk with Jesus into our Two-Mile Mission, we need the heart of mercy for people who are hurting.

**Watch this: MERCY CLINIC VIDEO**

**MERCY CLINIC** – This is Sue Tripp. Sue has been a volunteer at Mercy Clinic since the very beginning over five years ago.

- Sue, it must be so special to know that you have the opportunity to be part of saving someone's life. How have you seen Mercy Clinic impact the lives of people in our part of the city?
- What volunteer needs do you have at the Mercy Clinic?
- How has God blessed you through your involvement with Mercy Clinic?
- Thank you, Sue. Out in the Welcome Center you'll find a table for the Mercy Clinic where you learn more about how to volunteer or support Mercy Clinic. You'll also find tables for our various community ministries that touch people each week with food and clothing distribution.

In v.36 it says that Jesus *saw* the crowds and it moved Him to compassion. He was fully aware of the sin that robbed them of their dignity and security. This Thursday evening we are hosting something called the Human Trafficking Summit. Right here in our own city women and children, even men, are held captive like slaves in the sex industry as well as in other industries where they are exploited. Jesus has compassion on them, and so should we.

**Matthew 9:37 - Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.**

Jesus never intended to do this by Himself. He had His eyes on the harvest *field*, but also on the harvest *force*. So as believers the Holy Spirit of Jesus is living in us. He intends to do His teaching and preaching and healing through us. But Jesus was a realist. He understood that our own selfishness would continuously tempt us to be consumed with our own wants and needs. So while the harvest is plentiful, the workers are few. So what is Jesus’ strategy? Brown beat people until they feel guilty? Load up the few caring souls with more than they can possibly handle? No, this is a spiritual problem. The Spirit of God would have to break through that complacency. That’s why Jesus said...

**Matthew 9:38 - Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”**

Our Father is the *Lord* of the Harvest. This is His harvest field, not ours. When we have the heart of our Father and His Son, we will “ask” and earnestly pray for workers. And when we are sensitive to the call of God as we pray we will find ourselves sent by God somewhere into His harvest field. And as we live our lives on mission teaching, proclaiming the Good News, helping hurting people we are living under the Lordship of Christ.

One of the great pressing, moral battles in our nation today is for the sanctity of human life. Between a half-million and one-million babies are aborted each year. On the front line of this battle for life are pregnancy help centers like the Fort Worth Pregnancy Center which our church helped to start more than twenty years ago. **Watch this: FWPC VIDEO**

**FWPC** - Our own Shelley Lee is the director of the FWPC. Shelley, thank you for letting us take a few minutes today to put the spotlight on the work of the FWPC.

- After watching the video I think how meaningful it is must be for a volunteer to know they have a part in a life-changing story like that. How are volunteers blessed?
- What are the primary volunteer needs at FWPC?
- What would you say to a person who may feel they are not qualified to minister to women and men in such need?

- Thank you, Shelley. Again, out in the Welcome Center you'll find a table for the FWPC. Consider stopping by and finding out how you can volunteer or support FWPC.

And as we pray we will find ourselves joining Jesus as He walks through our part of the city and at the places where you live and work and go to school.

**Matthew 9:38 - Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."**

Listen, not every assignment that comes from heaven has your name on it. But one or two of them do have your name on them. Discover the difference that can be made in the lives of people in our city as we walk with Jesus into office buildings and neighborhoods and schools and hospitals and factories with the love and compassion of Jesus pulsating through our lives.