



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King and His compassion!

Matthew 9:18-38

Message #28 of 80 – S1058

Sermon given on August 13, 2023



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King and His compassion!

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Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 9**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- One of the things that ought to fill your heart with wonder and cause you to love God even more is His compassion.
- God cares about you! (**1 Peter 5:6-7**)

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

- This morning we are going to look at several expressions of God's compassion expressed through His Son Christ Jesus.
- And then we will see God's heart for the lost.
- And finally, we will talk about we can do to have a heart more like Christ's.
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to make our hearts open to change.
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King and His compassion!**
- In the last message we saw Jesus interact with two religious groups; the Pharisees and the disciples of John the Baptist.
- In dealing with them Jesus declares His mission – His reason for being here.
- **Matthew 9:13**
- The word 'mercy' can also be translated 'compassion.'
- God desires mercy or compassion more than sacrifice.
- We will see that expressed first in a series of miracles.
- The first two are intermingled.
- **Matthew 9:18-19**
- Several of these miracles are also found in Mark and Luke's gospels.
- For a deeper study of these first two miracles, watch my teaching from Luke's gospel.

- I will include a link in the online description for this message.
 - The ruler's name is Jairus, and his daughter is twelve years old.
 - Jairus is desperate – his daughter is dead and there is nothing he can do about it. But he comes to Jesus believing Jesus can do something.
 - Jesus immediately responds to the faith of this desperate father.
 - But then Jesus is interrupted by another desperate person.
 - **Matthew 9:20-21**
 - The ruler was desperate because there was nothing he could do to save his daughter.
 - This woman was desperate because there was nothing she could do to save herself.
 - Luke's gospel tells us that she spent all her money on doctors who were unable to help her.
 - The woman thought she could be healed without anyone noticing.
 - **Matthew 9:22**
 - Jesus sensed healing power going out from Him.
 - In this case Jesus did not do the healing, it was the Holy Spirit responding to her faith.
 - The woman is healed, and Jesus continues on with the desperate father.
 - **Matthew 9:23-24**
 - She was dead. Jesus is King over life and death.
 - He already knew what He was planning to do.
 - For those Jesus is going to raise from the dead, death is no more frightening than falling asleep.
 - The Apostle Paul picks up on this thought several times (1 **Thessalonians 4:13**).
- But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.**
- Paul only uses this idiom for believers who die.
 - **Matthew 9:25-26**
 - It is not an everyday occurrence that someone is raised from the dead.
 - Then the account turns to two more desperate men.
 - **Matthew 9:27-31**
 - Blindness was a common problem for lots of reasons.

- It was a serious handicap.
- They ask Jesus for mercy/compassion.
- Jesus didn't respond to them immediately.
- This reminds us to be persistent in our prayers.
- Then Jesus challenges them about their faith.
- This reminds us that faith releases the power of God.
- Healing the blind was one of the signs of the Messiah (**Isaiah 42:6-7**).
I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles, ⁷to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house.
- Everything Jesus did proved He was the long-awaited Messiah.
- As the two blind men leave, another desperate man is brought to Jesus.
- **Matthew 9:32-33**
- Jesus was doing things people had never seen before.
- Working miracles was not what Jesus came to do.
- Turn to **Matthew 11**
- But the miracles pointed to what He had come to do.
- That's what He told John the Baptist's disciples.
- **Matthew 11:2-6**
- Turn back to **Matthew 9**.
- Not everyone approved of what Jesus was doing – again!
- **Matthew 9:34**
- Jesus responds by telling them that is ridiculous and illogical.
- Those who will resist us in the faith will often resort to name-calling and lying and use illogical arguments to try to shut you up.
- Just speak the truth in love and then move on.
- Don't argue with foolish people.
- **Matthew 9:35**
- Jesus' ministry had three primary components; teaching, preaching, and healing.
- Teaching is about imparting knowledge.
- As Bible teachers we are trying to impart knowledge of God and His Word.

- We must be careful that we are not letting man's ideas and ideologies corrupt the pure Word of God.
- It is the Word of God, rightly understood and obeyed that builds faith and pleases God (**Hebrews 11:6**).

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

- Preaching is about influencing people toward God and His righteousness.
- Miraculous healings still happen, but only Jesus can heal 'every' sickness or disease.
- He did it while He was on this earth as a witness to His being the Messiah so that people would believe.
- We have the full revelation of God in His Word and the Holy Spirit so that we can believe.
- We still pray in faith for miraculous healing.
- Everything that sin touches, it corrupts or destroys.
- As long as we are in this world, we must care enough to be a part of the healing this world needs.
- With everything that Jesus did, He could see that it was not enough.
- **Matthew 9:36**
- The shepherd does all he can to make sure his flock flourishes.
- As Jesus looked around at the multitudes who were coming to Him, He could see that they were not flourishing, at least not spiritually.
- One of the gifts God gives to the church is pastors and teachers (**Ephesians 4:11**).

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers...

- The Greek word translated as 'pastor' is the translated 'shepherd' everywhere else in the New Testament.
- While some are called specifically to the ministry of pastor, everyone is called to care for God's flock in some way.
- This certainly applies to those who are already God's people, but it also includes anyone who will become one of God's people.
- And because we don't know who will become one of God's people we must look at everyone we encounter as someone God might be preparing to add to His flock.

- That means we should care about them and look for ways to care for them.
- Jesus then tells why this is important to us.
- **Matthew 9:37**
- Jesus could look out over the multitudes and see an abundance of people who God wanted to add to His flock.
- But He could also see that there weren't enough laborers to bring them all into the fold.
- He also knew that He wasn't going to be there for very long.
- Within a couple of years, He was going back to His Father in heaven.
- He tells His disciples how they should respond to this reality.
- **Matthew 9:38**
- Notice that Jesus doesn't tell them to go out and preach the gospel.
- He will do that at the end of this gospel.
- All of God's people should play a role in bringing the gospel to a lost world.
- And one of the great works that we can do is to obey this verse.
- Pray that God would raise up and send out people into the ripe harvest fields of the lost around us and preach the gospel and lead people into a right relationship with God through faith in Christ.
- If you are faithful to pray for the lost and pray to God to send out laborers, you might discover that God will do a radical work in your heart and use you in the harvest field.
- You might be terrified of that thought right now, but just trust God and pray for laborers in the harvest field.
- If God wants to send you out, He will get you ready to do that.
- Why is that important? Because God is merciful.
- He wants to pour out His mercy and compassion on the lost sheep of this world.
- Just in the same way He poured His mercy into your life.
- God wants us to care, and then he wants us to pray, and then He wants us to obey.
- Let's pray and ask God to help us to care enough to pray and obey.
Amen?!