

Seeing the Lost as God Sees

(Matthew 9:35-38)

It is interesting to consider how Jesus described the various crowds of people He encountered in His life. Sometimes He referred to them as fish (Matthew 4:19). Sometimes He referred to them as wheat and tares (Matthew 13:24-30). Sometimes He referred to them as sheep (Matthew 9:36). Sometimes He referred to them as a great harvest (Matthew 9:37-38).

By considering these figures, we are given great insight into how He saw people. When looking at people, Jesus saw beyond the trivial things about them. Instead He saw them for who they really were. He saw people who had eternal souls and who one day were going to appear before Him in judgment.

We need to challenge ourselves to see the lost in the same way Jesus does!

I. We need to see that they are lost .

- A. This is why Jesus spent time with tax collectors and sinners.
 - 1. Jesus was always aware of the dire situation of the lost (Luke 5:27-32; 19:7-10).
 - 2. While others criticized Him for eating with sinners, Jesus was always concerned with helping them come to God.
- B. We have to follow in His footsteps.
 - 1. Like Jesus, we have to open our eyes and understand that many of the people we encounter are lost and on a path to hell (Romans 3:23; 6:23).
 - 2. We have to open our eyes and see their spiritual poverty and try to help them before it is too late!

II. We need to see that they are valued by God.

- A. Jesus emphasizes this in the...
 - 1. Parable about the lost sheep (Luke 15:1-7).
 - 2. Parable about the lost coin (Luke 15:8-10).
 - 3. Parable about the lost boy (Luke 15:11-32).
- B. Jesus also demonstrated His care for the lost by...
 - 1. Giving attention to the woman mentioned in Luke 7:36-50.
 - 2. Giving attention to Zacchaeus (Luke 7:9-10).
- C. Like our Lord, we too must see the value of every single sinner.

III. We need to see that they do have potential .

- A. Jesus saw this in the lost.
 - 1. He saw this in Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:1-19).
 - 2. He saw this in the Samaritans (John 4:35).
- B. Let us avoid prejudging people!
 - 1. Let us understand that the gospel has the power to save and change anyone.
 - 2. It changed Paul, and it continues to change people today (Romans 1:16).

Conclusion: Our job is not to _____ the soil, but to sew the seed.

- Shawn Jeffries