



**WORD**

*<sup>35</sup>And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.*

*<sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. **MATTHEW 9:35,36***

Jesus' response to seeing the crowds was compassion. He saw them differently from the way we might see crowds—as an irritation or inconvenience. As we follow Jesus, He calls us to fish for men the way He did (Matthew 4:19). We are to look at the lost the way He does, to reach out to them the way He does, and respond the way He does. In this lesson, we will look at three ways we can reach out to the lost.

**1 Be compassionate.**

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

Jesus saw that the crowds were harassed and helpless. He saw them for who they were—lost, like sheep without a shepherd. Therefore, He had compassion on them and intentionally reached out to them. How do you respond when you see a crowd? How have you learned to be more intentional in helping others follow Jesus?

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**2 Be connected.**

*"The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'" **LUKE 7:34***

Many religious people were upset with Jesus because He liked hanging out with the lost. But Jesus purposefully did this so they could know Him and turn from their life of sin. Likewise, we can't reach out to the lost if we are only with Christians. We are to follow Jesus' example and connect with the lost to lead them back to God. How do you continue to build relationships with lost people? What is the purpose of engaging them?

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**3 Be courageous.**

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. **ROMANS 1:16***

As we help others follow Jesus, we will need more than compassion and connection. We will need courage, which comes from God. Paul challenged the church in Rome to boldly proclaim the gospel to all—Jews and non-Jews. We, too, can share what God has done for us. Why should we not be ashamed of the gospel?

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