

**THE BIG IDEA:** When we see what others don't, we'll do what others won't.

### The Take-Off

If I gave you a magic remote control, what would you do with it?

If you saw the movie "Click" with Adam Sandler, you know what he did with it! He fast forwarded, reversed and paused his life into a mess.

But in one scene, he learned the power of the pause button!

[PLAY SCENE]

Now, I would never encourage you to use power like that to hurt others, but this morning, I do want to give you something.

I want to give you a magic pause button, and I want to encourage you to use it.

Jesus did, and this morning we'll see how hitting the pause button can help us see the unseen.

Let's start by reading Matthew 9:35-38

### 1. Jesus saw something (Crowd)

- a. So often, we're guilty of moving too fast or getting too wrapped up in what we're doing to even notice our surroundings
- b. Anybody who has ever watched a kid pick his or her nose has seen this truth
- c. As we grow, we stop the nose thing (unless we're in the car!), but put us in front of the TV and everything fades away, right!
- d. But I love how the first 5 words of verse 36: When Jesus saw the crowds...
- e. Something changes when we see people - really see people - doesn't it?
- f. I've shared with you before about the man on the subway whose kids were so out of control that another man finally spoke up and scolded the dad! His response? "I'm so sorry. We just left the hospital where their mother died and I don't know what to do."
- g. Suddenly, the man felt differently because he saw differently!
- h. The same happened with Jesus.

### 2. Jesus felt something (Compassion)

- a. Seeing the crowd led to a feeling, didn't it?
- b. He saw the crowds and felt "compassion"
- c. Compassion literally means "moved in the innards"
- d. It's deep, and the question we need to ask is what was it about the crowd that moved Jesus so deeply?
- e. They were "harassed and helpless"
- f. The NIV does an unfortunate job of translating these 2 Greek words in a way that removes the sting
- g. We read it and think, "Oh, well they were stressed and overwhelmed like me when I get home from work and still face the dirty clothes monster or the grass that needs to be cut."
- h. No, this is so much deeper. It means they were "torn and thrown away"
- i. Jesus saw something in the crowd that moved him deeply - it was their VALUE!
- j. See, when we get a slow cashier at Wal-Mart, we see them based on OUR value - "I'm in a hurry, can't they go faster?" - instead of on THEIR value - "I wonder what's causing them to struggle so much?"
- k. Jesus saw value in the crowd, and that moved him deeply, with compassion, in his innards

### 3. Jesus did something (Commission)

- a. Notice that Jesus did more than just see and feel. He actually did something about it.
- b. This part is critical, so we'll camp here for just a bit, ok?
- c. It's one thing to feel something. It's another to do something.
- d. In fact, this is what separates pity from compassion.
- e. Pity feels but isn't moved. Compassion moves.
- f. Paraphrasing the way Christine Caine says it in Undaunted, "Compassion crosses the street."
- g. The fact the Jesus DID something sets him apart from the majority of us who may see, may feel, but won't act
- h. Maybe you've heard of the "Genovese Effect" also called the bystander effect

- i. It got its name when Kitty Genovese was murdered in 1964 even as a dozen or more neighbors heard her screaming for help but did nothing.
- j. Unbelievably, 10 years later another woman was brutally murdered in the same neighborhood.
- k. Seeing is one thing, feeling is another, but doing?
- l. What if I told you that God's plan to redeem the lost hinges on it?
- m. So Jesus does something to help this "thrown away culture"
- n. He looks at his disciples and tells them to ask God to send them to it
- o. Jesus said they were like sheep without a shepherd - but HE'S THE SHEPHERD
- p. Jesus had already gone through all the towns preaching and praying - but now HE'S TELLING THEM TO GO
- q. You and I are the answer to what Jesus saw. He could do it all, but his plan is to use us instead.

### The Landing

Think back to that magic remote I gave you when we started this message.

You're standing in the grocery store and you hit pause.

Let me ask you a simple question: "What - or who - do you see?"

Not a manager. A soul who is worried about whether or not the salary is worth the 60-80 hours away from the kids who used to be 3 and now are 13.

Not another shopper. A mom who just left the doctor's office and heard the doctor use a disease she can't pronounce in the same sentence as her child's name.

Not just a teen who can't keep his pants up. A young man who doesn't have any significant relationships with any adults and wonders silently why he isn't worth the attention.

Do you see them? Really see them?

Do you see the value in them that caused Jesus to feel deep compassion, and are you willing to be part of the solution?

Our Big Idea assumes that you will: **When we see what others don't, we'll do what others won't.**

There is no option for true followers of Jesus once we see the crowd. We'll have to move.

Not only will we pray to the Lord of the harvest to send workers, but we'll actually put our name on the sign up sheet.

At the top.

This week, use the pause button. A lot.

When you find yourself asking the honest question, "Why?" when it comes to our second service starting on Sept. 7, hit the button and scan the crowd.

They're torn. They're thrown away. But they have value to God, and that means they have value to us.

It means that they are worth us serving them in order to bring them near to God and us.

We'll feel compassion, and not just pity, because we will act.

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