

I. MOVE – THE CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE – MATT. 9: 35-38

³⁵ *Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.* ³⁶ *But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary (harassed) and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Matt. 9:35-36*

A. The heart of God is pliable. Moveable! You can impact the heart of God with a truthful, heartfelt, deep wholehearted cry. This is so obvious from scripture and easily proven true.

B. During the Galilean ministry of Jesus, he is moved in his heart regarding the condition of the people.

1. Moved – (kineo) – to be set in motion, to move or remove from a place, throw into motion or commotion.

2. *splagchnizomai* – G4697 (splahhh-nee-zo-mai): to be moved as to one's bowels, hence to be moved with compassion, have compassion

C. Jesus' assessment is that the people are harassed, weary and scattered.

1. **Harassed** – feeling or looking strained through having too many demands made on one.

2. **Weary** – feeling or showing tiredness, especially as a result of excessive exertion or lack of sleep. (no rest)

3. **Scattered** – distracted, disorganized, disunified.

D. Though Jesus assesses this corporate condition is the result of poor leadership, he sets to work to rectify this point of pain.

...like sheep having no shepherd.

E. One of the metaphors used by God to describe himself and his Son – Messiah is “shepherd”.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. Ps. 23:1

¹¹ *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. John 10:11*

F. God's primary metaphor to describe the leaders he had chosen to lead the people was that of a ‘shepherd’.

He also chose David His servant, And took him from the sheepfolds; ⁷¹ From following the ewes that had young He brought him, To shepherd Jacob His people, And Israel His inheritance. ⁷² So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them by the skillfulness of his hands. Ps. 78: 70-72

Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, And His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him. ¹¹ He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young. Isa. 40:10-11

¹⁴ “Return, O backsliding children,” says the LORD...¹⁵ And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. Jer. 3: 14-15

G. God’s greatest warnings were reserved for leaders who did not act as true shepherds after his own heart.

“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!” says the LORD...⁴ I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking,” says the LORD. Jer. 23: 1-4

H. Paul testified that his ministry was more like a father (shepherd) than a simple messenger.

¹⁵ For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. 1Cor. 4:15

I. His declaration of David’s qualifications to be king over all Israel was that David was a like hearted man.

And...He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.’ Acts 13:22

J. Jesus’ instructions to his disciples regarding leadership as the sons of Zebedee jockey for position and power against the rest of the disciples, even asking their mother to request the positions for them. Jesus sees in his own disciples the very spirit of the political and religious leaders (elite) of his day.

²⁵ But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. ²⁷ And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Matt. 20:25-28

K. Jesus sets an example for us. What moved his heart that day was the condition of the people. His understanding of his role as servant of God, enabled him to respond correctly to the people’s condition.

II. WHAT IS MOVING YOUR HEART TODAY?

A. What is moving our hearts today? Are we being moved with compassion over the plight and condition of the people or are we like the disciples, more concerned with our position and power?

B. Lay claim in prayer to a perimeter around your home.

1. Prayer-walk that perimeter.
2. See yourself as a servant to the people in that perimeter.
3. Respond in faith to the condition of the people in that perimeter.
4. Invite your believing friends to come walk that space with you.
5. Watch what God will do in that prayer space.