Our scripture comes from Matthew 9:35-38. While you’re finding that, A trusted aid was counseling a senator. He said, "Some of your constituents are beginning to disagree with you." The senator thought a minute, then replied, "Keep an eye on them. When a majority disagrees with me, I'll turn and agree with them." Jesus doesn’t work this way – scripture doesn’t work this way. Praise God that we have a Father who changeth not!

**Matthew 9:35-38 35Then 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. 36But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. 37Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. 38Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”**

Compassion – it isn’t what Jesus did, it’s Who He is! Years ago, there was a movement where people wore wristbands that said WWJD – what would Jesus do? Doing like Jesus without Believing and Being like Jesus is a waste. I want to BE like Jesus. When I am like Jesus, when every part of my being is like my Master, my doing will follow, my giving will follow, my speech will follow. Doing like Jesus cannot be sustained unless we are first being like Jesus.

In our scripture this morning, it says **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.** We see that Jesus went about – He didn’t wait to be approached, to be invited, to have the way paved. He didn’t only go where everyone agreed with Him or only where He felt loved or only where He found the sinless. He went to all – for what purpose? To teach… preaching, literally calling out, the Good News of the Gospel, to anyone who had ears to hear. We know He touched lepers, forgave adulterers, and dined with outcasts. He didn’t heal some sicknesses and avoid others. We know that Jesus went to all. This is in keeping with John 3:16. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. We are here to witness to the whoevers… some are people who mistreated us, some are people who look different than us, some are caught up in sin… some are even of a different political party. Seeking to BE like Jesus means seeking the whoevers wherever.

Verse 36 says - **But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.**The multitudes here are not all His disciples. These are the masses of people. Like walking down a crowded street in New York. Jesus saw them and He was moved with compassion – literally, compassion roiled about in His insides. Compassion churned for these that He saw. It churned even for the sinner, even for the lost, even for the hateful. He saw their weariness and their lostness. He felt a deep sense of compassion.

Do we feel this sense of compassion for the lost in our world today? Seeking to BE like Jesus means hurting in our hearts for those we see. We’re not called to hate those who disagree with us. We’re called to pour out our hearts in love, even when we’re rejected and disrespected.

Verse 37 **37Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few.**Jesus speaks a truth that resounds today. The harvest is plentiful – so many lost, scattered, looking, and weary. So few who will be bothered to toil for the Lord. So many who have no issue sitting for hours and watching TV, but can’t be bothered to visit or call. Jesus is not fooled. Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Verse 38 **38Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”** That word pray – it means Beseech, Beg, Call out… Cry for the Father to send laborers into His harvest. Do we cry out for God to send laborers? If we do, do we cry out that the laborer be us? Or, like Moses, do we suggest that God send someone else? God, Please send the pastor to visit all the shut-ins and sick and prisoners and lonely and people who haven’t come to church in a long, long time! Isaiah 6:8, Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” Is this our answer?

If we are to BE like Jesus, we must feel the compassion for those who are lost and weary and scattered, in all cities and all towns, whether they are like us or unlike us. We must cry out for God to send laborers into the harvest… there are too few… too many want to sit at the Lord’s table taking their ease and not enough are willing to step away from the table and work for the harvest! Laborers are needed and Jesus is calling. What is the answer? Here I am Lord, send me Lord! Send me! I feel the compassion for those around me. I love even those who are not like me. I long to help even those who disagree with me. Send me, Lord, send me. Or – not now Lord… the Superbowl in on. May our answer always be Send me Lord, send me.