

Thornbury Baptist Church
Small Group Discussion Questions

Talk Date: Mark 8th, 2026

Passage: Matthew 9:35–38

Speaker: Paul Ferguson

Discussion Questions

1. Compassion has eyes – seeing people

Jesus “saw the crowds.” In busy life it is easy for people around us to fade into the background.

Who are the people we may pass by without really noticing in our everyday lives?

You might spend a few minutes reflecting on **Luke 10:25–37 (The Good Samaritan)** and notice the difference between those who saw the wounded man and the one who truly responded.

2. Compassion has a heart – feeling what Jesus feels

Matthew says Jesus had compassion because the people were “harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

**What do you think Jesus saw in people’s lives that moved him so deeply?
Where do we see similar realities in people around us today?**

3. Compassion has a heart – mercy rather than blame

Jesus does not begin by blaming the crowd for their situation but responds with compassion.

Why do you think compassion rather than judgement is so central to the heart of God?

4. Compassion recognises the deeper story of people’s lives

Jesus saw people who were worn down and scattered.

How might seeing people through the lens of compassion change the way we respond to them?

5. Compassion recognises that God is already at work

Jesus says, “The harvest is plentiful.”

Where might God already be at work in the lives of people around us — in families, workplaces, neighbourhoods, or friendships?

6. Compassion begins with prayer

Jesus tells the disciples to pray for workers for the harvest.

Why do you think Jesus begins with prayer before anything else?

You could spend a little time looking at **Matthew 10:1–5** and notice what happens next to the very disciples who are told to pray.

Takeaway

What is the main thing each person is taking away from this discussion?

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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM1OwaJ4eSICosAjl9Ofzjw>