

Care, Pray, Go . . . Because Jesus is Worthy

God has given us, the Church, a mission to reach people with the redeeming Gospel of Jesus Christ both here in Manhattan and around the world. We are to engage this mission by caring, praying, and going. And the heartbeat behind all of this is the truth that Jesus is worthy! He is worthy of the worship of all of creation! May we be encouraged to be people who live on mission seeking to give Jesus the worth that is due his name.

Read Matthew 9:35-38

1. As Jesus was going about what did he see? What did he feel?
2. How are the crowds described?

Sam said:

Jesus had compassion for the people as they came to him with their needs -- he cared about the people around him, always. As followers of Jesus, that aspect of his character and behavior must be something we aspire to and emulate. If you want to be like Jesus . . . you have to care about and have compassion for the people around you. You've got to put your love -- or, if you want to get really deep, you've got to put Christ's love for you -- into action.

3. As you consider how Jesus viewed the crowds, how does your own experience compare? In other words, how do you tend to feel about people who are living far from God?
4. What does Jesus command in the passage? Practically, what does this mean?

Sam said:

Followers of Christ must be people who dedicate time and energy and effort to prayer. We need it, the people we send need it, and those waiting to hear the Gospel for the first time desperately need prayer-powered missions. And the American church -- with our freedoms and legal protections -- is so blessedly positioned to be the battery or engine of prayer for the Global Church.

5. Is this idea that you are called to pray for the work of missions a new idea to you? Do you “dedicate time and energy and effort to prayer” for the work of missions?

Sam said:

In Matthew 9, Jesus tells his disciples to pray for followers of Christ to be sent into the world to preach the Gospel to the lost . . . and then, in Matthew 10:5-15, he sends his twelve closest disciples to do just that. They are told to “go” . . . Christians are people who go. We go to people who are near, and when called by God we go to people who are far away. Our challenge really isn’t to figure out *if we should go*, but rather, *who we should go to* . . . Whether it is “here” or “there,” local or global, domestic or foreign, Christians need to be people who go into the world and share the Gospel. It’s just what we do. And I hope today and this week you’ll consider how it is you go, or how you might need to change some things in your life so that you can go wherever God is calling and sending you.

6. Have you ever consider that the call to “go” is for you and not just for missionaries overseas?

7. Do you have a sense of what this call to “go” might mean for you right now in your life?

Sam said:

Application: (Pick one...or three!)

- I will care for _____
- I will pray for _____
- I will go to _____

8. Where do you start?

9. Sam emphasized that we care, pray, and go because Jesus is worthy. How might keeping this truth clearly in mind motivate you to live these things out?