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Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
www.ccclamesa.com

Looking Through the Eyes of Jesus
Matthew 9:35-38
Series: Joining Jesus on His Mission

Central Passage

Matthew 9:35–38 (ESV) — **35** And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. **36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.** **37** Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; **38** therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Central Thought: Joining Jesus on His mission begins with gaining a new perspective and a new heart from Jesus for the people all around us.

We join Jesus on His mission by...

- ❖ Opening our eyes to notice the people right in front of us.

Luke 19:1–6 (ESV) — **1** He entered Jericho and was passing through. **2** And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. **3** And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. **4** So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. **5 And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.”** **6** So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. (See also, Luke 19:1-10)

- ❖ Opening our hearts to care about the needs of neighbors.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan – Luke 10:33–34 (ESV) — **33** But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and **when he saw him, he had compassion.** **34** He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. (See also, Luke 10:25-37)

- ❖ Opening our spirits in prayer for ourselves and others to become more aware of how Jesus is at work all around us.

John 4:35 (ESV) — **35** Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, **lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.** (See also, John 4:1-45)

John 4:35 (NLT) — **35** You know the saying, ‘Four months between planting and harvest.’ But I say, **wake up and look around.** The fields are already ripe for harvest.

Homework/Questions

- ❖ Read the “See also” passages above.
- ❖ Begin with praying for yourself and our church that God would open our eyes and soften our hearts to the people and needs around us.
- ❖ If you haven't yet, get a copy of the book, *Joining Jesus on His Mission*, by Greg Finke. Available at the back table or digitally on Kindle and Google Play books.