

JOURNEY WAYPOINTS

September 7–13, 2025

A stop along the journey to study, share, and support one another while we learn the way of Jesus.

This Week's Big Idea:

Christ's deep, visceral compassion for the lost—rooted in His divine love—moves us beyond our natural limitations, compelling us to overcome fear, pray for God's imparted burden, and actively share the Gospel in both words and deeds.

Scripture and Study:

KEY TEXT: Mat. 9:36; 2 Cor. 5:14; Col. 3:12; Mar. 6:34; Prov. 29:25 [Click here to access this week's scripture](#)

In Matthew 9:36, Jesus saw the crowds—harassed, helpless, like sheep without a shepherd—and was moved with *spagchnizomai*, a Greek word meaning a visceral, gut-wrenching compassion that stirs action. This wasn't mere pity; it was a divine empathy that drove Him to heal, teach, and weep over humanity's lostness. What He felt compelled Him to respond in a way that would draw people to God.

This depth of compassion is not natural to us; it is imparted through a relationship with Christ. Hudson Taylor, a missionary to China, once wrote, "Perhaps if there were more of that intense distress for souls that leads to tears, we should more frequently see the results we desire." We must pray for God to soften our hearts so that they will break for what breaks His. As we spend time in His presence, asking Him to make us more like Him, His burden to "seek and to save the lost" will become our burden, we will see people as He sees people, and His love that has become so real to us will compel us to share His Good News unashamedly as His Spirit opens doors for us. The words of Charles Spurgeon will become our words: "If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay."

Menno Simons described true faith as active: "It seeks those who are lost; it binds up what is wounded; it heals the sick; it saves what is sound." Jesus modeled this in deeds—feeding the hungry, healing the leper—and words, teaching truth to the lost, proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom. And, just as Jesus demonstrated, as His followers, we too are called to be moved by the Spirit's longing for all to encounter life in Jesus. As we allow God to give us His heart, we will find ourselves fulfilling the Great Commission: meeting desperate needs around us, and boldly sharing the Good News.

Discussion Questions:

- How does Jesus' compassion in Matthew 9:36 challenge your view of the lost around you? What fears hold you back from sharing the Gospel?
- When have you felt God's compassion stir you to action? How did it deepen your faith?
- How can praying for God's heart for the lost transform your daily interactions?

Apply It:

- Reflect: Journal about a time you felt compassion for someone's spiritual or physical need. How can it inspire you to act boldly?
- Pray: Ask God to impart His compassion for the lost, breaking your heart for what breaks His.
- Act: This week, choose one act of compassion—serving the needy or sharing the Gospel—and step out in boldness, trusting God to work through you.