

What Can We Do?

Submitted by Elder Carol Richardson

Matthew 9:35-37

^{35.} “Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ^{36.} When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on 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 workers are few.”

It seems that each new year we enter into, the murder and crime rates are on a trajectory to exceed the previous year. The things that are happening on our streets are crazy. We hear on the news politicians, police, community leaders, even religious leaders offering their various opinions on what is happening; who's to blame, and even what they think will fix things. We see very little progress, and nobody seems to have the answers.

In this 9th Chapter of Matthew, Jesus was traveling from town to town continuing to perform miracles of healing of the body, mind and spirit for many. Can you imagine the weight of His responsibility to be the One shouldering all of this? Yes, He had disciples with Him but they weren't ready to do what He was tasked to do but they did what they could. There were so many in need that at the end of this passage Jesus makes a plea. “Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.”

My brothers and sisters, we may not be able to do all that Jesus did. We may not even be able to do all of what we see others do. But God did give each of us the capacity, the capability and if we are His disciples, He gave us the compassion to do something. It says that **when** Jesus saw the crowds, He had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. That's what I see going on in our streets, in our homes, on our jobs, etc. We are living amongst sheep without a shepherd. Yes, we can pray for them but Jesus did more than just pray. He touched them physically, emotionally and spiritually. How can we touch someone's life today? Showing compassion and doing something!! Let's not turn our backs on what we see but make it a point to do what we can.