

Serving Our World

With all of the problems we face among our own friends and associates and within the city limits of Memphis, we might ask ourselves why we should concern ourselves with the needs of people we don't know, who live thousands of miles away. If we watch Jesus closely, we begin to get some answers.

Matthew 12:9-21

⁹He went on from there and entered their synagogue. ¹⁰And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—so that they might accuse him. ¹¹He said to them, "Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? ¹²Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."

¹³Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other. ¹⁴But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.

¹⁵Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all ¹⁶and ordered them not to make him known. ¹⁷This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁸"Behold, my servant whom I have chosen,
my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased.

I will put my Spirit upon him,
and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.

¹⁹He will not quarrel or cry aloud,
nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets;

²⁰a bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not quench,

until he brings justice to victory;
²¹and in his name the Gentiles will hope."

1. Our ministry is to heal broken people. (v.9-16)

Why did Jesus heal this particular man? And why on the Sabbath? (Especially knowing how strongly the clergy opposed such a thing.) Because the man was there, he was in need, and Jesus could help him. We treat our animals this way – why not hurting human beings? If we carefully observe the world we live in, we can see many ways in which we can help people.

2. Our mission grows out of the heart of Jesus. (v. 17-20b)

Under great opposition, Jesus quietly slips away and then instructs His disciples not to broadcast their praises of Him. What does this tell us about Jesus? Isaiah 42 gives us the answer: God prophesied centuries before that His Son would be gentle and humble. The entire Christian mission emanates from this heart.

3. Our mission ends in global justice. (v. 20c-21)

Being very gentle and humble, we might fear that Jesus would never be able to accomplish His mission; but the Bible proclaims a wonderful story—in the end, justice and mercy and salvation will win out, and the nations of the earth will turn to Him. We are guaranteed success!

Discussion Questions

- 1) Why did Jesus withdraw from the crowds in verse 15, and why did He silence His disciples?
- 2) Describe the character of Jesus Christ as given in verses 18 through 21.
- 3) What will the world look like when “he brings justice to victory”?
- 4) What are our biblical motivations for being engaged in the Christian mission around the world?

Helpful Resources**BOOKS**

[Operation World](#)

by Jason Mandryk

[Let the Nations Be Glad](#)

by John Piper

Digging Deeper

Draft a plan for your engagement in the international Christian mission:

1. I will pray for _____ each week.
2. I will give \$_____ [Missionary Name] to world missions annually.
3. I will make myself available to participate in a missions trip.
4. I will offer myself to God for His purposes, whatever that may entail.