

The welcome verse for this week is John 3:16-17, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.



Lost People Matter
Matthew 9:35-38; Luke 19:10
2 Corinthians 5:14-21

The Bottom Line: We bring the life and light of Jesus to people by bringing the gospel to our homes, workplaces, and neighborhoods.

Introduction:

Jesus was never hesitant to state the reason for his coming.

Perhaps you grew up in the faith and heard this song: “Zacchaeus was a wee little man...”

At the end of Zacchaeus’ story, Jesus’ makes it clear why he is sitting with a rich, greedy tax collector. It was really just a part of his greater purpose – to seek and save the lost.

Here lies the problem: Jesus came to seek the lost. We do our best to avoid them.

Tension:

This often creates an *US vs. THEM* mentality.

God so loved the world (that is, the people).

If Jesus did not come to condemn them, what makes us think that we have a right to (John 3:17)?

Truth:

Last week, we recognized that healthy churches are determined by the disciples they are producing. What good are bitter, fearful, self-righteous disciples for a local church body?

Instead of running away from them, God is calling us to pursue unbelievers. **Lost people matter to God, and they lost people matter to us.**

Healthy and holy (set apart) disciples of Jesus Christ join with him in his greater mission to reconcile all people to the Father. Disciples on mission build a local church on mission.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21.

Paul notes three motivators for joining on mission with Christ:

- 1. The fear of the Lord
- 2. The love of Christ
- 3. The good news to be shared

Because of these same reasons, we are moved toward all people to bring them good news. We bring the life and light of Jesus to people by bringing the gospel to our homes, workplaces, and neighborhoods.

Application & Conclusion:

Last year, God led me (Pastor Matt) to read straight through the gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. In reading these stories, it became evident that Jesus’ whole mission was truly to seek and save the lost. At the central point of Jesus ministry, we read a compassionate but rather haunting story in Matthew 9:35-38.

What if the harvest is ready, but no one is going to labor?

Discussion questions for group this week:

- 1. What does this teach me about God?**
- 2. What does this teach me about me?**
- 3. How do I apply this to my life?**
- 4. If I could ask a question about this it would be....**