

# June 17th and 18th, 2017

## The Second Sunday after Pentecost

Texts for this week's Blended and Contemporary Services:

Exodus 19:2-8 (NIRV) Romans 5:6-15 (NIRV) Matthew 9:35-10:8 (ESV)



### Pastor as Shepherd and Missionary

*When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few...'*

(Matthew 9:36-37)

Intro –

This week, and for several weeks this summer, we'll see how the text speaks to the role of the pastor. This is a complement to our exploration of the texts after Easter, as they related to the mission and ministry of the church. This Gospel is aimed at BOTH pastor and congregation, but we will look, especially, at its application to the pastoral office. In many respects, this is a time of training for the newly called pastors and disciples!

#### I. *The people were as "sheep without a shepherd"*

a. When Jesus looks at the crowd, the text says "*he had compassion for them.*" Compassion is the hallmark of our Lord's relationship to us. It is this compassion that carries him to the cross for us!

b. The people were "*harassed and helpless.*" How is that? Though they had rabbinical leadership, apparently it was not enough. They had the law, but they did not have the Spirit!

- ✓ Key point – We can rightly see in this text that a God-pleasing shepherd is one who has compassion. It is a pastor who exercises, what we might call, a leadership of the Gospel. His authority is in the Word of Christ, rather than in his "ecclesiastical authority".

#### II. *There are not enough "under-shepherds" to meet the need*

a. The text is, rightly, a text about the need for all of us to adopt a missionary stance toward the world. It is, rightly, about the need for persons to take up the mantle of missionary work. In this, it is a call to the missionary work of the Gospel, itself.

b. But it is, also, our Lord's way of saying the need exceeds the capacity to respond! Not his capacity, but ours! If we apply this text to the pastoral office, the hard reality is there are not enough of us to meet the need.

- ✓ Key point – However else we might read the text, I would encourage you to read the text as an exhortation to begin praying now for God's "laborer" to join you in the missionary work of the Gospel.

#### III. *He sent out the Twelve*

a. To the apostles, he gave his authority to preach, teach and heal in his name. This was their mission, as they were sent, first, to the lost sheep of the house of Israel and then – after Pentecost – to the ends of the earth!

b. The pastoral office is a missionary one. It is to those of the faith who are lost, and those not of the faith. It is a mission given to the entire community of faith, and to the pastor it is given to do it by Word and sacrament.

- ✓ Key Point – However else we might read this text, we want to read it as the missionary work of the Gospel is the work of a team – pastor and people together!

Conclusion – The artwork conveys it well. It is a painting of the crucified Christ, with the needs of the harvest field reflected in his face. He came for all, that all might have life and peace through him.

All Glory to God alone!  
Pastor Buono

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