

Matthew 9:35-38

See, Judge (discern), Act

1. Jesus saw! Vs 36

Phrases that I have heard from the global mission community:

- A. God is at work. Africa and the relatively low numbers
- B. The level of prayer has increased exponentially.
- C. The gravitation to technology.
- D. Importance of National leadership, innovation and sustainability.
- E. Covid is a revealer. It has shone the spotlight on injustice, poverty and other mega challenges.
- F. Community Transformation
- G. Radical Collaboration
- H. Radical Generosity

What did He see?

He saw the multitudes. The nations. The 7,7 billion
Yet, also people as individuals, created in His image whether the wealthiest or poorest person.

El Roi, meaning I am seen by the one the One who sees me!

He sees me! No one is invisible!

He sees every one of the 3 billion who are yet to hear about Jesus for the first time

2. He judged (discerned, sensemaking) Vs 36

He discerned that they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd

Take time to reflect, to pray, to actively listen to the Holy Spirit, to seek counsel from credible and trusted people.

So, as we spent time discerning, a few things became clear:

1. We are missing a beat if we are just waiting for normal to return!
2. There are certain things that will not change viz. God's love for the nations and His call upon His church to go into all the world....
3. We need to proclaim the whole Gospel, focusing especially on making disciples! BTW, the WEA declared 2020 as the year of the Bible and the year of making disciples.
4. We need to be involved in Community Transformation
5. We need to embrace Technology because it gives us an opportunity to reach people we have never been able to before.
6. We need to invest in nationals. It is so easy to close borders. We talk about the need for near and same culture workers. Economically viable, often more or less similar linguistically.
7. Use your skill or talent. Through work.
8. Shrinking back is not an option! The church cannot go into survival mode! Whether in the NT or throughout history! In the midst of difficulty, the church is often at its most fruitful! Bonhoeffer writing from a Nazi prison: the church is only the church when it exists for others.

3. Jesus acted vss 37,38

The way he acted was contrary to conventional wisdom. Jesus' response was a Kingdom one! Let's ask the Father to send laborers. That's where we start, asking the Father what we should be doing! When Jesus did act, it was with courage and conviction.

Conclusion

Be the church. It was just after the persecution of the church by king Herod in Acts 12, leading to Peter's arrest, that in chapter 13, the church in Antioch was praying and discerning what they should do, when the Holy Spirit spoke to them, telling them to send Paul and Barnabas. That first missionary journey would change the course of history!