

Outside My Space

Season of Prayer 2009

For State Missions and the Janie Chapman Offering
For State Missions, Missions Education, and Experience Kingdom Life

Sermon Outline

Matthew 11:1-6

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Scripture:

Focal Passage: ³⁵And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. ³⁶But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. ³⁷Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; ³⁸Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." Matthew 9:35-38, King James Version

Outline Passage: ¹And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities. ²Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, ³And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? ⁴Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: ⁵The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. ⁶And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me." Matthew 11:1-6, King James Version

I. We live in a faith-questioning world.

- a. Matthew 11:2-3 - Questions may arise from those with strong faith
 - John the Baptist may have asked the question personally.
- b. Questions arise from those with some faith
 - John may have been asking on behalf of his disciples.
- c. Matthew 11:1 - Question arise from those with no or little faith
 - Those who may have been listening to Jesus' answer.

Application

By acknowledging that we live in an increasingly skeptical world, we can more effectively determine how to provide appropriate biblical answers to questions people have about our faith.

II. Faith questions can be addressed with need-meeting answers.

- a. Matthew 11:4-5 – Christ met the needs of those who followed him closely.
 - Bartimaeus
 - The Paralytic
 - Tabitha
- b. Christ met the needs of those who followed him from afar.
 - The lepers who did not return to thank Jesus

Application

By meeting pressing needs we follow Jesus' example. By meeting pressing needs we are focused to be creative; by meeting pressing needs we move outside our space or comfort zone.

(Over)

III. Need-meeting must ultimately lead to the ultimate answer for one's need.

- a. Matthew 11: 5 – The gospel must be presented to all who will hear
 - Those who recognize they are spiritually helpless are the “poor in spirit” (Matthew 5:3).
- b. Meeting needs should not be an end in itself
 - Jesus' message demands that we minister to physical needs and then to address the greater spiritual needs.
- c. Matthew 11:6 – A call to Christ must be embraced as a call to his Lordship
 - Jesus cautioned against a faith that wavers.

Application

By moving *outside my space* I creatively meet needs and consciously share the gospel message.

Note: In using this outline, add South Carolina Facts provided to you on the State Missions Facts Sheet. Refer to the stories in the *Leaders Guide*. Show clips from the State Missions DVD as appropriate. Use current events to illustrate scripture truths.