

## Second Sunday After Pentecost

In today's passage, Jesus' compassion is in response to not just illness or the lack of food, but the situation of vulnerability. He is moved by those who apparently live on the edges of society because of illness, disability, ostracism, and social convention that renders some people "harassed and helpless" (9:36), particularly in Judean Jewish life at that time (Matt 28:18-20).

It is obvious any invitation to comfort would be greatly appreciated. But am I looking to seek safety if they asked me to put myself in his presence or to be even killed for his name?

We are all always looking for a bargain in our life, being careful to not to lose it for nothing. But in Christian life, all the tortures and sorrows are the payment for your good deeds. As he said, "The kingdom of heaven has come near."

In Matthew 9:35-10:8, there are lots of things happening. The Lord Jesus travels, teaches, proclaims, and heals all kinds of illnesses along the way. Jesus establishes the scope and expands the scale of his endeavors through the appointment of his disciples (we are now his disciples.)

He also sets geographic boundaries by instructing his disciples to "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matt 10:5-6).

Today you and me, as disciples of the Lord, gathered and invited to do his work, with a small amount of faith, though we are imperfect (believe me none of the disciples at the time of Jesus were perfect,) don't need to wait to be "perfect" to do good.

We do His will, get up, pray, call your clergy and ask to be on the list of prayers and discern what you want to do and know your calling and at the end behold "The kingdom of heaven has come near."

Yours in Christ,

Nazanin Nour