
D. GROWING COMPETENCE

*D.9: **Shepherding people [Matthew 9:35-39, 1Peter 5:1-5]***

A STORY

Recently at my church we were having an unusual event. We set up a Christmas backdrop with trees and presents. We then dressed some folks like Santa Claus. We also had little Minions dressed up. The kids loved it. We had pictures. It felt like we were in the mall. The amazing thing was that people just loved it. As I sat and looked at all these people getting pictures with their families, I felt a different emotion. I was moved to see that there were so many people of different ethnic backgrounds that I had never connected to or seen before. I asked the question “Who is shepherding these people?”

It reminded me of the verses of Scripture in Matthew 9:35-39.

DIGGING INTO THE BIBLE

Matthew 9:35-39:

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

DISCOVERY AND DISCUSSION

1. What did Jesus see in the crowds he walked among?
2. What emotions do you see in Jesus’ heart?
3. What has been your experience of being with shepherd-less people?
4. What did Jesus ask the disciples to do?

APPLICATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

5. How can we personally become involved in answering that prayer?
6. What steps can you take to become a laborer?

MORE DIGGING INTO THE BIBLE

I Peter 5:1-5:

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

DISCOVERY AND DISCUSSION

1. What is the responsibility of a shepherd?
2. What of these responsibilities do you feel competent in?
3. Which ones need work?

APPLICATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

4. Which one would you like to work on first?
5. What would be a step you could take to grow in that area?
6. When do you want to get started?

LIST ANY OTHER VERSES THAT YOU HAVE FOUND WOULD ADDRESS THIS ISSUE: