

## **Sept 29/24 – Small Groups - 1 Corinthians 12; Matthew 9: 35-10:1, 5-8**

### **Read Matthew 9: 35-10:1, 5-8**

1. Jesus' ministry was centered around three things. What were they and how do they relate to the kingdom of God?

Jesus looks out over the crowd beholding their brokenness, pain, disease, sorrow and affliction and has compassion. This is the strongest word in the Greek language for compassion, it is a gut-wrenching compassion that leads one to action.

2. What response does Jesus' compassion bring about? Do you sense that this only applies to the disciples or that this sets a pattern for every subsequent follower of Jesus?

### **Read 1 Corinthians 12**

Paul, the writer, is providing a corrective to the Corinthians ordering the spiritual gifts (Jesus' ministering abilities) in terms of their perceived importance. This ordering is causing division in their communal life, inhibiting what the Spirit is doing in their midst. In his corrective word we are given the most comprehensive teaching on spiritual gifts that we find in the New Testament.

3. (vs. 1-11) What are some general truths you can glean from this portion of the text around spiritual gifts? Which truth is most personally meaningful and why?
4. (vs. 12-31) Paul gives us the image of the body to not only provide a corrective to their ordering the importance of spiritual gifts but also to point to his ultimate desire for them as a church. What is that ultimate desire? What are some of the things we could do at little t to press more and more toward that?

### **Read Romans 12: 4-8; Ephesians 4:11-14; 1 Peter 4:9-11**

5. What are the gifts that the Spirit gives to those who are in Christ? What do each look like in practice?
6. Do you have a sense of what your gift might be? How have you seen it impact others to support them in living into Zoe (the full life of the kingdom)?
7. Spend some time reflecting on one another's gifts – encourage one another where you have seen or experienced the impact of their gift – close in prayer for one another in this vein.