



Reaching (Meeting Jesus)
April 26, 2026

Holy Text

Matthew 9:35–38 “35 And 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. 36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. 37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”

I. Defining Our Vision: The Blueprint for Discipleship

- Today, we will share a vision that has guided CRC for many years. It is drawn from Scripture and captures the mission, heart, and example of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a holistic, living blueprint for discipleship. Our vision statement is:

“Reaching, Teaching, and Releasing Hurting People Through the Power of Jesus Christ”

- We believe true biblical discipleship is defined by three distinct pillars:
 - i. Reaching - Helping people meet Jesus
 - ii. Teaching - Helping people know Jesus
 - iii. Releasing - Helping people serve Jesus¹
- This is not a slogan, this is not branding, this is not something we created; it was inherited.
- And because it comes from Scripture, we are not free to ignore it or redefine it; rather, we are called to submit to it.
- This submission requires intentionality; that is, purposefully building our lives, our homes, and our church according to the precepts, principles, and patterns of the Bible.
- If we are submitted to the Word, we will follow His model, carry His heart, and obey His mandate.
- My task today is to focus on the first Pillar: Reaching. Because if no one meets the Lord, nothing else follows. **Romans 10:13–15**

II. The Source of our Reaching (The Model of Christ)

Matthew 9:35 “35 And 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.”

- Reaching, which we define as helping people meet Jesus, flows directly from the Lord’s earthly ministry.

¹ 2020 Plan of Ministry “A Healthier Church and Helping our Community”. December 29, 2019. <https://calvaryreformationchurch.org/sermons/2019/12/test-yRJ8t?rq=matthew%209%3A35>

- We see that **He went. He taught. He preached. He healed.** These actions define discipleship and set the pattern for how we are to engage the world today.
 - i. **He went** - This models how disciples must move beyond their own concerns to meet people where they are.
 - ii. **He taught** - This models how we are to undergo intentional formation under the Lord's leadership, learning to live under His guidance and leading others to do the same..
 - iii. **He preached** - This models the proclamation announcing the kingdom's arrival and demands a response. Proclaiming the good news constitutes core Christian ministry.
 - iv. **He healed** - This models the supremacy of God's word and the authority of Jesus Christ over sickness, disease, demonic oppression, or any other infirmity that besets us.

- The Lord lived with intentionality to reach people where they were. And when we look closely at His ministry, we begin to see why.
 - i. He went because so many were lost. **Luke 19:10**
 - ii. He taught because people were confused and scattered. Led astray by "Blind Guides". **Matthew 23:16-26,**
 - iii. He preached because men needed to hear the Gospel proclaimed! **Romans 10:14-17**
 - iv. He healed because men were filled with spiritual and physical sickness and disease. We are still sick!²

III. The Motivation of our Reaching (The Heart of Christ)

Matthew 9:36 "36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd."

- Our drive to reach the lost must be anchored in Christ's deep compassion (splanchnizomai), an agonizing love that moves us from deep within our bowels when we see the hurt and confusion of the world.
- The Lord was moved because He saw a people who were weary, scattered, and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. That is the condition of the lost. They are wandering blindly, and they desperately need the truth.
- This compassion reveals the heart of God. He does not delight in the suffering or loss of His creation. **Ezekiel 33:11, 2 Peter 3:9, 1 Timothy 2:1-4**
- So, we must ask ourselves: Do we really believe that the Son of God stepped down from glory, took on flesh, suffered, bled, and died just so we could sit comfortably in the goodness of God with no burden for the lost? Or is there a greater purpose for us? **Isaiah 49:1-3**
- All around us are sheep without a shepherd. And we who were once enemies of God have now been made His ambassadors, to His glory and for the salvation of souls. **2 Corinthians 5:17-20**

² The Ministry of the King in Matthew: The Plentiful Harvest. December 2, 2018. <https://calvaryreformationchurch.org/sermons/2018/11/the-ministry-of-the-king-in-matthew-the-plaintiful-harvest?rq=matthew%209%3A35>

- But thanks be to God, when we find ourselves without that burden, He does not leave us there. He extends His grace and gives us time to repent and be about our Father's business.

IV. The Foundation of our Reaching (The Call of Christ)

Matthew 9:37–38 “37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”

From this text, we see three realities: the nature of the harvest, the nature of the Lord of the harvest, and the nature of His laborers.

- **The nature of the Harvest: Precious, Plentiful, Perishing**
 - i. Precious in that the Lord's heart is to see his creation reconciled unto himself. He loves us and His compassion calls us. **John 3:16, 1 Timothy 2:3-4, Romans 5:8**
 - ii. Plentiful in that there are multitudes who are like sheep without a shepherd, scattered, weary, and in need of Christ, the true Shepherd.” Both in the text and today. **John 10:11-16, Isaiah 53:6, Romans 8:36-39**
 - iii. Perishing in that in their current state, they stand in danger of the judgment of the Lord; apart from Christ, without hope, and in desperate need of rescue. **Matthew 3:7-12, John 5:24-29, 2 Timothy 4:1**
- **The nature of the Lord of the Harvest: Sovereign, Compassionate, Urgent**
 - i. The Lord is sovereign over his creation. The field belongs to him, the laborers belong to him, the harvest belongs to him, and only he can redeem his workmanship and restore what's broken. **Psalms 127:1, Deuteronomy 10:14**
 - ii. The Lord is compassionate (splanchnizomai) and merciful in that he sends his laborers in the fields to gather his harvest! **Ephesians 2:2-5, 1 Peter 1:3-5, Titus 3:3-6**
 - iii. The Lord is Urgent in his desire to save. When the harvest is ready, there is no time to waste. The laborers must gather the harvest quickly before it's too late. **Luke 15:4-10, John 10:27-29, Matthew 23:37-38**
- **The nature of the Lord's Laborers: Dependent, Obedient, Burdened**
 - i. Dependent, in that they pray to the Lord, are reliant upon his power to strengthen them and trust Him as the Lord of the harvest. **1 Chronicles 29:11–14, John 15:1-6**
 - ii. Obedient, in that they hear His command and respond to it. **John 14:15, Hebrews 5:9**
 - iii. Burdened, in that they share in His heart and are moved to reach the lost. **2 Corinthians 5:14–15, Philippians 2:4–5**

V. Final thoughts

- After 29 years, the question is not whether we know the vision, but whether we have submitted to it.

- If we are submitted to the Word, we will carry the heart of Christ. And if we carry His heart, we will not ignore His mission to reach the lost.
- No one will know the Lord unless they meet Him first. And that means someone must reach them.
- And every soul that meets Jesus brings rejoicing in heaven and a trembling in hell
- Rejoicing because it is one more life rescued from the pit,
- Trembling because the Devil and his angels are one step closer to judgment.

Amen.



Teaching (Knowing Jesus)

April 26, 2026

Holy Text: Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe^[d] came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF):

The early believers learned God's Word together, shared meals, prayed, and supported each other like family. Their genuine love and unity drew people in, and God kept adding new followers every day. This was what Jesus intended for the local church then and now. What a beautiful picture!

A Walk Through Acts 2:42-47:

1. *And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers (v42).*

- The early Christians made four things non-negotiable (Learning the Word together, spending quality or real time together, eating together and praying together)
- They didn't treat the four as optional, they built their lives around them.

Application to live by now:

- Read your Word daily, not just on Saturday in preparation for Sunday
- Build real relationships, do not walk away when things are hard
- Be or become hospitable
- Pray with each other
 - *Matt 28:19-20 – The Great Commission*

- *2Tim 3:16-17 – All Scripture is breathed out, profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, training to equip the Saints*
- *Heb 10:24-25 – Love one another and do not forget the assembly of the saints*
- *Col 4:2 – Continue in praying.*

2. *And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles (v43).*

- It was obvious something bigger than them was happening.
- Everyone felt the atmosphere shift as God began to do something extraordinary.

Application to live by now:

- Expect God to move, not always through miracles, but through changed lives.
- Sharing testimonies can build your faith, their faith and draw the loss to the Lord.
- Live in a way that make people say, God is doing something in them or ask the question who do they serve.

➤ *Jn 13:35 – Love shows you are Jesus disciples*

➤ *Matt 5:16 – Let your light so shine that they may see your good works*

3. *And all who believed were together and had all things in common (v44).*

- They lived like a family. They really did like one another.
- They shared their lives, resources, and burdens.

Application to live by now:

- Do not isolate yourself, this does not build a community or a family
- Share what you have whether time, talent or treasure
- Treat the church like a family, not an event or a checked box.

➤ *Gal 6:2 – Bear each other's burdens*

➤ *Rom 12:5 – One body in Christ, but individual*

4. *And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need (v45).*

- They gave freely, no promise of if you gave you would get.
- No one went without the necessities

Application to live by now:

- Be unselfish with what God has given you, remember it all belong to Him anyway.
- **You** care enough to meet people immediate needs.

- *Jam 2:15-17 - poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, faith without work is dead*
- *1Jn 3:17-18 – let us not love in word but in action*

5. *And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts (v46)*

- They met often, not just once a week.
- They shared meals and laughs together
- They lived lovingly with each other

Application to live by now:

- Invite people into your home, this grows friendship
- Be real, not religious.
- Build trust during the gathering
 - *Heb 3:13 – encourage one another daily*
 - *Rom 12:13 - show hospitality*

6. *Praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved (v47)*

- They worship with joy not out of obligation
- Their attitude was a witness of the love they had for Jesus and His Word

Application to live by now:

- Live in a way people are curious about your faith
- Trust God will send people or give you the opportunity to share your faith
- Do not your circumstances affect your praise
 - *Matt 5:14-16 - gives light to all in the house*
 - *Jn 15:8 – Bearing much fruit*

Conclusion: Acts 2:42-47 isn't just a story, it's a mandate, something we're meant to do. These people didn't just believe; they lived it out every day regardless of their circumstances. They showed up for each other, prayed together, shared what they had, and made sure no one was left out or without necessities. That kind of love and togetherness can change lives.

People are still looking for that real connection, real care, real purpose even in 2026. We have the chance to give the Gospel and make disciples for the kingdom. When we choose to support each other, give instead of holding back, and lift people up instead of tearing them down, we build a community and the kingdom.

So don't just listen to these words, put them into action. When we do, lives can change, hearts can heal, and people will be drawn to something real and powerful, something that comes from true love and unity. We call it the Gospel of Jesus Christ!



Releasing - Serving Jesus

April 27, 2026

CRC 29th Anniversary

Holy Texts: Matthew 9:35 / Matthew 16:24-28 (KJV)

Matthew 9:35

And 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.

Matthew 16:24-28

Then said Jesus to His disciples, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it.

*For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?
or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*

For the Son of Man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall reward every man according to his works.

Introduction

“A disciple is not fully formed until they are serving.”

Three pastors, three sides of one triangle:

- Pastor Carey - Reaching (Meeting Jesus)
- Pastor Hill - Teaching (Knowing Jesus)
- Pastor Profit - Releasing (Serving Jesus)

If Matthew 9 shows us *what Jesus did*, Matthew 16 shows us *what it will cost us to follow Him*.

1. Releasing Is Serving Jesus, Not Just Serving People

CRC has always defined the triangle with precision:

- To Reach is to help people Meet Jesus
- To Teach is to help people Know Jesus
- To Release is to help people Serve Jesus

Why does this matter?

Because service disconnected from Jesus is nothing more than volunteerism.

Volunteerism runs out. Devotion doesn't.

1 Corinthians 10:31

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

- When you serve this church, you are serving Him

- When you serve this community, you are serving Him
 - The member who is Releasing isn't just busy - they are following
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Key Thought:

Service that isn't rooted in Jesus is just activity.

Following Jesus looks like Matthew 9:35.

2. Releasing Costs Something

Look at what Jesus requires in verse 24:

- “Deny himself” - self wants comfort, recognition, and convenience
To deny yourself means you no longer sit on the throne of your own life
- “Take up his cross” - to them, the cross was not symbolic
It was a tool of execution
A man carrying a cross was on a one-way road to death

“To take up the cross means the willingness to endure shame, suffering, and perhaps martyrdom for His sake; to die to sin, self, and the world.” - William MacDonald

- The cross is not a burden you find. It's one you choose.
- The triangle breaks when consumers remain consumers.
- If all you ever do is receive... you are not a disciple.
You are a spectator.
- There's a difference between sitting in the stands and stepping onto the field.
One watches. One sacrifices. One is comfortable. The other pays a cost.

The good news: Jesus never calls us to something He didn't do first.

And by His Spirit, He now enables us to live what He commands.

We release because we were released.

He freed us from sin so we could be free for service.

Key Thought:

The cross is not imposed on you.

It is chosen by you.

3. Releasing Is Where You Find Your Life

Matthew 16:25

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it.

This is the great reversal.

You don't lose when you release. You find.

- The ones who have served in ministry, opened their homes, served this community... they have found something a spectator will never find.
- You were not made to sit. You were made to serve.
- If Heaven were the only thing that mattered, the Lord would have taken us home at salvation. He left us here on purpose.

CRC asks every covenant member to:

- Choose a ministry and serve
- Minister to lost people
- Serve the community
- Think globally

This isn't a church program.

This is the shape of a disciple at CRC.

Key Thought:

You don't lose when you release.

You find.

Closing

- A church that Reaches but doesn't Release only produces crowds.
- A church that Teaches but doesn't Release only produces students.
- A church that Releases produces disciples who look like Jesus in Matthew 9:35.

29 years, CRC. We have been at this long enough to know it works.

Before next Sunday:

- Choose where you will serve.
- Choose who you will serve.
- Choose when you will start.

Are you following Jesus?

Not just meeting Him.

Not just knowing Him.

Following Him.