

**Nazarene Bible College
Chapel 24 October 2006**

**Text: Matthew 9:35-10:8
“Have You Seen the Crowds?”**

Parallel passage is Mark 6:6b-12, 30-44
(John the Baptist in Mark 6:14-29)

When you travel, are you like this?

[Image of backpackers.]

Or do have to allow for every possible contingency, like this:

[Image of overloaded vehicles in desert.]

In these passages in both Matthew and Mark, **Jesus sends** out the disciples. Interesting **instructions**:

Matthew then relates what **Jesus said they could take** on this trip.

- take nothing for the journey by a staff
- (By “staff” he did not mean an **assistant** and an **office manager**, but a **walking stick**.)
- no bread
- no bag
- no money in your belts
- wear sandals
- but (don’t take) an extra tunic

This was part of the **disciples’ training**. Please notice the setting for this **“learning unit.”**

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. (v. 35)

Mark simply says, “Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village.” (v. 6b)

And the previous chapters in both Matthew and Mark give us example after example of this.

In both accounts the writers note:

Matthew 9:36, “When **he saw the crowds . . .**”

Mark 6:34, “When Jesus landed and **saw a large crowd . . .**”

Are the writers simply setting the scene for us?

They are setting the scene, but there is **significance beyond** just seeing what was happening.

- **Why** did he make a **note** of this? Because **it was different** than the way people normally looked at the crowds.

How do you and I **see the crowds** around us?

- Simply as **background** to the **scenes** of our **own lives**?
- As **obstacles** always in our way that keep us from doing **our** work?

[Personal illustrations here.]

[Journal entry from student here.]

Called to see the crowds as Jesus saw them and respond as He responded to them.

[Call for response.]