

**Day One: Matthew 9:35-38**

- What was Jesus up to (35)? Not a one-trick pony, he taught, proclaimed the good news and healed people. Likewise, he intends for all aspects of our lives – body, mind, behavior, etc. – to come under his good rule and reign. Is this your reality?
- What was Jesus' response to the crowds (36)? Why (36)? Why do you think the people seeking Jesus were "harassed and helpless"? In our city today and across the globe, who is in this condition? In what ways do you feel this is *your* condition? Receive Jesus' compassion now. Pray God would then use you to connect all who are "harassed and helpless" to his compassion.
- After considering the crowds, what did Jesus say to his disciples (37-38)? What exactly is the harvest, and who are the workers? Consider Jesus' words in light of *The Story Continues* discipleship campaign. What work will *you* do in this harvest season?

**Day Two: Matthew 20:1-16**

- In this parable, what is Jesus comparing the Kingdom of heaven to (1)? Why do you think he took so much time to creatively teach about God's Kingdom? Describe the landowner's hiring practices (1-7). What jumps out at you thus far in the story? What's familiar? What seems unusual, perhaps because of cultural differences?
- What happened when evening came (8)? How was worker pay doled out (8-10)? How did those who worked the most hours react (11-12)? Is their response justified? Why or why not?
- What did the landowner say to the grumbler (13-16)? What is your response? Why might Jesus say these same words to you? In what ways do you struggle to grasp and esteem God's way of doing math – one that produces both miracles and extravagant generosity; and challenges our notion of fairness? Open yourself to this mystery; in doing so may you become a better disciple.

**Day Three: Mark 10:46-52**

- Set the scene of this text (46). Describe Bartimaeus (46). What did he do when Jesus passed by (47)? How did some people respond to this (48)? Describe Bartimaeus' persistence (48). As a blind beggar, why do you think he twice cried out for mercy? If you were in Bartimaeus' position, what would you say to Jesus?
- What happened next (49-50)? Describe Jesus and Bartimaeus' conversation (51-52). Describe the miracle, and Bartimaeus' response to it (52). Picture the scene in your mind's eye. Hear everyone's tone of voice. Visualize the different colors. Both pre and post-healing, how does the blind man move?
- Although Jesus often heals people while en route to somewhere else, he never seems annoyed by these interruptions. How can you become more Christ-like in this regard? Pray for grace to notice the needs of those around you, regardless of what's on your agenda. And then may you miraculously meet these needs.

**Day Four: Acts 8:26-40**

- What did an angel tell Philip to do (26)? Whom did he meet (27)? What was this man up to (27-28)? How did the Spirit continue to guide Philip (29)? More than reason, Philip acted because of heavenly revelation. Do you engage God like this, or do you not bother? Commit to praying for revelation during this campaign. How much is God asking

you to give? What part does he want you to play in the continuation of Vineyard Columbus' story?

- Summarize Philip's conversation with the Ethiopian man (30-35). Which parts of their exchange move you? Why? What happened next (36-40)? Consider the eunuch's question in verse 36 as a universal one. Spiritual attack "can stand in the way" of becoming more like Jesus. Pray for protection from such attack.
- How does this story relate to Acts 2:39? Reflecting on the miracle of our church's diversity and its plans for missions, pray for "all whom ...our God will call." As you do so, what is God speaking?

#### **Day Five: Ephesians 6:10-20**

- Where does a Christian derive strength (10)? How do we stand against Satan (11)? What does Paul then remind us of (12)? Consider your own current struggles and setbacks, and those of Vineyard Columbus. What spiritual forces are at play? What is the enemy trying to take away from God's people?
- Summarize Paul's advice for engaging in this sort of warfare (13-17). Note Paul says to put on the *full* armor of God: this is a picture of holistic discipleship. For every tool God offers, we must use it to its fullest potential. Imagine this level of engagement among everyone in our church. What miracles would happen?
- What role does prayer play in spiritual warfare (18)? What are Paul's specific prayer requests (19-20)? Who today needs prayer like this? Different situations call for different prayers. How do you usually pray? Ask God to show you a new way to pray during this discipleship campaign. What impact do you think this will make?