

Compassion **NOT** Convenience

GK: To have the bowels yearn.

A gut-wrenching, intense pain deep within us that causes us to bend over. Relief will only come when there is movement - a release.

Jesus was a man of compassion.

*Matthew 9:36 When He saw the crowds, He had **compassion** on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*

*Matthew 14:14 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, He had **compassion** on them and **healed their sick**.*

*Matthew 20:34 Jesus had **compassion** on them and **touched their eyes**. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.*

*Mark 1:41 Moved with **compassion**, Jesus reached out and **touched him**. “I am willing,” He said. “Be healed!”*

Compassion can only be fully expressed through action.

Compassion causes a mindset shift from the abdication of a problem to the embracing of a problem.

Matthew, Mark and Luke in their gospels all tell of a time when thousands gathered to hear Jesus speak and found themselves with no food or shelter.

***Luke 9:12** Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to Him and said, “**Send the crowd away** so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here.”*

Mark notes that Jesus felt great compassion toward the people “...because they were like sheep without a shepherd...” (Mark 6:34)

Matthew reveals that instead of accepting the disciples’ recommendation, Jesus instructed them to find a way to feed the people.

***Matthew 14:16** (niv) Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”*

The disciples said. ¹⁷ “We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish...”

Look what happens next; ¹⁸ “Bring them here to me,” he said. ¹⁹ And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve

basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ²¹ The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Jesus was not only meeting the needs of the people, but He was also teaching the disciples a new mindset.

Jesus was moved by compassion, while His disciples were motivated by convenience.

Compassion moves us to take responsibility, accept challenges, make the necessary sacrifices by taking action to serve the good of others.

When we see a human problem without compassion, we can easily ignore it.

When we see through the eyes of compassion, we are compelled to care and moved to action.

Jesus understood the depth of the human soul because He cared deeply for others.

As a church, we are to be Jesus to the society we live within and to the world around us by passionately pursuing the great commission!

Mark 16:15 (niv) *He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”*

As we obey and pursue the Great Commission, the fuel that will keep us motivated to go, give, send, and to pray is compassion.

Compassion is the fuel that keeps us extending beyond ourselves to reach the lost near us, around us and beyond us!

Expanding our hearts always starts with what we choose to see.

We can't fix every problem - but the ones we can - **we must!**

Jesus understood that there is something much worse than being without eye or limb. Being separate from God is a greater tragedy!

BIG IDEA: Missions is not what we *DO*, it is *WHO* we are!