

SERIES: **The Jesus Journey**

Q: *If you had to sum up the ministry of Jesus on earth using one word only, what would it be?*
Authority? Power? Holy?.....I propose- COMPASSION

TITLE: **Jesus is Compassionate**

TEXT: **Mark 8:1-9**

Whether or not you believe Jesus to be compassionate is of utmost importance. I.O.W., it's a big deal.

Here's why: IT SHAPES HOW WE APPROACH HIM.

It's the difference between: I messed up- dad's gonna kill me/ I need to call dad

**Your confidence to come to Christ in any & every circumstance,
hinges on your belief in the depth of His compassion**

When I was about 4 years old, I secretly grabbed my dad's razor & tried to shave- the result was more blood than I had ever seen- I wasn't sure how my parents would react- so I hid. When they found me, to my relief, I was met with compassion (*dad's on my side*)

The Old Testament is peppered with mentions of God's compassion-

Psalms 103:10-14 He has not dealt with us as our sins deserve or repaid us according to our iniquities.

¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his faithful love toward those who fear him.

¹²As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

¹³**As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.**

¹⁴For he knows what we are made of, remembering that we are dust.

In the New Testament, God's compassion takes bodily form, in the person of Jesus-

Mark 8:1a In those days there was again a large crowd, and they had nothing to eat.

This sounds familiar, doesn't it? Back in Ch. 6 Jesus & the disciples were in a similar situation.

But there is a very important difference- in CH.6 the crowd was predominately Jewish.

Here in Ch. 8 the crowd is predominately Gentile (non-Jewish).

'In those days'- He's outside boundaries of Israel; encounter with Syrophoenician woman;
traveling the long way back; heals a deaf and mute non-Jewish man

Mark 8:1b-3 He called the disciples and said to them, ²**"I have compassion on the crowd, because they've already stayed with me three days and have nothing to eat. ³If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, and some of them have come a long distance."**

This crowd, of at least 4,000 has been with Jesus for three days- where did they come from if He's in gentile land?

Mark 5:18-20 As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged him earnestly that he might remain with him. ¹⁹Jesus did not let him but told him, "Go home to your own people, and report to them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you." ²⁰So he went out and began to proclaim **in the Decapolis** how much Jesus had done for him, and they were all amazed.

Never underestimate the testimony of one life changed by Jesus- especially when it's yours

Jesus has been feeding them spiritual bread for 3 days, but that doesn't mean He isn't aware of their physical needs as well- Notice that it is Jesus who sees their need and raises the concern (v3b)

Every need we have, spiritual & practical, stir the heart of Christ to compassion

Because Jesus is compassionate:

Our earthly need rouses Him to give;
Our emotional pain moves Him to tenderness;
Our sin provokes His saving.

That Jesus is compassionate tells us that our misery and needs touch the very heart of Christ!

Think about that- physical needs, financial needs, emotional needs, relational- HE CARES.

And also, our failings- when we fall short and are full of regret and remorse- it touches his heart

In B.B. Warfield's essay titled "On the emotional life of our Lord"-

he noted that after examining the four gospel accounts, the most common emotion in Jesus, in action and in feeling, was compassion.

Quick flyover:

Matthew 9:36 When he saw the crowds, he felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 14:14 When he went ashore, he saw a large crowd, had compassion on them, and healed their sick.

Matthew 20:30,34 Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" 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 his hand and touched him. "I am willing," he told him. "Be made clean."

Mark 6:34 When he went ashore, he saw a large crowd and had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many things.

Luke 7:13 When the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said, "Don't weep."

John MacArthur- *"Compassion colored everything he did."*

Understand, that because Jesus is both fully human & fully God doesn't mean His human emotions were weaker than ours—in fact, because He was without sin, He experienced them with even greater purity and intensity.

'I have compassion'= Greek 'splachnizomai'= to be moved in the inward parts

We all have had compassion- a hurting friend, a neighbor in need, a sick relative,
that ASPCA commercial with the animals & Sarah MacLachlan's song "Angel"

But our every emotion, even compassion, is tainted by the fall and sin.

We are good at reposting & sharing moving & compelling stories of people in need- then we go on scrolling.

That's what happened to the disciples between the last bread miracle and this upcoming one.
Look at their reaction:

Mark 8:4 His disciples answered him, “Where can anyone get enough bread here in this desolate place to feed these people?”

For those of us who can freshly recall the feeding of the 5,000 (men) in ch.6, we want to shout: **‘IN JESUS!’**

Like the disciples, for many of us, compassion is a challenge.

Our initial response is: *“I would help if I could; I would give if I had. But I do feel bad for them.”*

We don’t have a cash problem, we have a compassion problem

In a study at the University of British Columbia, participants were given a certain amount of money. Half the participants were told to spend the money on themselves; the other half were told to spend the money on others.

At the end of the study, which was published in the academic journal called “Science,” participants who had spent money on others felt significantly happier than those who had spent the money on themselves.

The lesson is clear in ch.6 and here in this text: *take what little you have and see what God can do with it*

Mark 8:5-9 “How many loaves do you have?” he asked them. “Seven,” they said. ⁶He commanded the crowd to sit down on the ground. Taking the seven loaves, he gave thanks, broke them, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people. So they served them to the crowd. ⁷They also had a few small fish, and after he had blessed them, he said these were to be served as well. ⁸They ate and were satisfied. Then they collected seven large baskets of leftover pieces. ⁹About four thousand were there. He dismissed them.

Jesus will not send the people away until He has had an opportunity to unload His heart of compassion on them.

And those hungry and weak went away satisfied & strengthened

He doesn’t only feel compassion; He can’t help but act on it.

You may be one of those who at this point is thinking:

So Jesus was compassionate when He was on earth, back then, but what about now...what about us?

When we suffer? When we sin? When we fail or become feeble and discouraged?

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

He is still compassionate today. And will continue to be on the other side of every sin you hate but keep on doing, and on the other side of every need that you have no idea how it will be met.

His compassion led to Jesus giving them a meal in a desolate place, but ultimately, giving Himself on a desolate cross.

**MAIN POINT: Because Jesus is compassionate,
He tends to our smallest needs
and atones for our greatest sins.**

The compassion of Jesus meets us in the little things we worry about and the biggest things we’re ashamed of.

That Jesus is compassionate is a truth that the devil wishes that you quickly forgot about.

Richard Sibbes, *The Bruised Reed*- “*See the contrary disposition of Christ and Satan and his instruments. Satan attacks us when we are weakest. But Christ will mend in us all the breaches sin and Satan have made. He “binds up the brokenhearted” (Isaiah 61:1). And as a mother treats most tenderly the most diseased and weakest child, so does Christ most mercifully bend down to the weakest people.*”

It's not that God doesn't care about your sin- He takes it very seriously-
so seriously in fact, that Jesus died in your place to free you from the curse of it

TWO INVITATIONS

1. **Rest in His compassion**

Because Jesus is compassionate, our weakness is met with His grace, our sin is met with His mercy

Let His saving overwhelm your sinning- surrender your life to Him

2. **Reflect His compassion**

Colossians 3 tells us to 'put on' compassion

-*Who is Christ's compassion leading you to?*

-*What is compassion asking of you?*

CALL UP WORSHIP TEAM

COMMUNION

Jesus broke the bread so that the blessing could be multiplied.

A foreshadow of what would be to come-

the breaking of His body, so that all who would believe would be blessed.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you:

On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, and said,

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

BULPEN-

Disclaimer: Initially we were going to cover the first 30 verses in this chapter because there is a theme playing out that you might miss unless you look at the big picture-
but there is another theme equally important that I'd like to camp out on today and tease out a bit.

The compassionate heart of Christ, as evidenced in His earthly life & work,
reconciles the gap between what we should expect from God, because of our sinfulness,
and what we actually receive from God, because of His Son.

Because Jesus is compassionate-

We can trust help is on the way when we're in need (the crowd)

We can draw near, instead of distancing ourselves, when we sin (the disciples)

The compassion of Jesus means we are not abandoned in our weakness, but met with His grace.

Because of His compassion, the gap between our failure and God's faithfulness is bridged.

'I have compassion'= Grek 'splachnizomai'= to be moved in the inward parts

In every narrative use, compassion becomes the hinge between human need and divine intervention. The verbs introduce healing ([Matthew 14:14](#); [20:34](#); [Mark 1:41](#)), feeding ([Matthew 15:32](#); [Mark 8:2](#)), teaching ([Mark 6:34](#)), and comfort to the bereaved ([Luke 7:13](#)). The consistent pattern is: Jesus sees → is moved → acts, underscoring that redemptive deeds spring from His compassionate heart.

Strong's 4697 threads through the Gospels as a scarlet cord of divine pity, binding together miracle, message, and mission. To know Jesus rightly is to experience and extend this compassion until He comes.

Dane Ortlund, "The same Christ who wept at the tomb of Lazarus weeps with us in our lonely despair. The same one who reached out and touched lepers puts his arm around us today when we feel misunderstood and sidelined. The Jesus who reached out and cleansed messy sinners reaches into our souls and answers our halfhearted plea for mercy with the mighty invincible cleansing of one who cannot bear to do otherwise. In other words, Christ's heart is not far off despite his presence now in heaven, for he does all this by his own Spirit."

John Macarthur- "Remember that even Jesus' most scathing denunciation – a blistering diatribe against the religious leaders of Jerusalem in Matthew 23 – ends with Christ weeping over Jerusalem (v. 37). Compassion colored everything He did."

Charles Spurgeon- "Whenever a sinner comes to Him, He becomes his Savior. Whenever He meets a sick soul, He acts as his Physician... If you go to Him, you will find Him at home and on the look-out for you. He will be more glad to receive you than you will be to be received... I tell you again that He cannot reject you. That would be to alter His whole character and un-Christ Himself. To spurn a coming sinner would un-Jesus Him and make Him to be somebody else and not Himself any longer. "He cannot deny Himself" [2 Tim. 2:13]. Go and try Him; go and try Him."

Augustine, City of God- "What is compassion but a kind of fellow-feeling in our hearts for another's misery, which compels us to come to his help by every means in our power?"

David Mathis- *“The Christian gospel itself fills the gap between what we should expect from God, because of our sin, and what we receive from him, because of his Son. Christ is divine compassion himself come in the flesh.”*

The Latin root of compassion literally means “to suffer with.”

Compassion is not a fault, but a Christ-like heart

Whenever you see a problem, know that God has a plan

V2 this three day wait points forward to another three day wait, when Jesus is in the tomb, and humanity hungers for redemption

In Jesus, there is enough to meet our need

‘baskets’- Mark 6 and 8 each have a different word for basket

That Jesus is compassionate means he not only feels, but acts

Call to Action- Colossians 3:12

Put on- it’s a choice we have to make

BULPEN 2-

V10 Dalmanutha- a 2013 excavation found the oldest synagogue yet discovered

V22 three of Jesus twelve disciples were from Bethsaida (house of the fisher)- Peter, Andrew and Philip

V23 hands would be laid on people and animals by the priests to transfer them from profane to sacred purposes.
Jesus’ hands did not transfer power from the profane to the sacred, but rather transferred sacred power to the profane

V29 Messiah (Christos; Christ in the Greek)- lit. Anointed

In the OT people were anointed for three special tasks: priests, prophets and kings- Jesus is all three
Christ is not a name, but a title

Yet another bread and boat scene

1st- Jesus calmed the sea and rebuked the disciple’s lack of faith

2nd- Jesus came walking on the waves and Mark tells us that the disciple’s had not understood about the miracle of the loaves and the fish and their hearts were hardened

the pharisees and Herod did not have much in common. One was full of religious duties and the other in debaucherous iniquity

What is the leaven? A refusal to believe in Jesus

Parallel passage Matthew 15:29-39 and ch.16

V11-12 they don't ask for a sign because their on the fence, but because they're on the attack