

Following Jesus
26, Jesus the Compassionate
Matthew 15:30-32

- I. Introduction – In Jesus’ approximately 33 miracles, compassion is mentioned 6 times as the primary motivating factor
 - a. But in one instance Jesus Himself mentions His OWN compassion
 - i. Compassion
 - ii. With feelings – or better feeling with (someone)
 - iii. To suffer with
 - iv. As google puts it: When you relate to someone's situation, and you want to help them.
 - v. You see someone in trouble, and you feel like pitching in.
 - b. This text comes sequentially after the feeding of the 5,000 primarily Jews, and the walking on water
 - c. You might remember that shortly thereafter Jesus feeds another crowd of 4,000, primarily Gentiles

II. Read Matthew 15:30-32

III. Message

- a. Jesus, the compassionate
 - i. Here was the God-man, perfect, sinless, holy, on mission
 - ii. Interacting with unholy, imperfect, sinners
 - iii. And in this story, as far as we can tell, GENTILES!
 - iv. What could bridge the difference?
 - v. Compassion
 - 1. A Jew intentionally relating to hurting Gentiles
 - 2. God intentionally relating to the problems of sinful humans
- b. Compassion makes sense in the context of the church
 - i. God had compassion on us
 - 1. He put Himself in our shoes, literally (in Jesus)
 - 2. He put Himself in our place on the cross
 - 3. He felt FOR us
 - ii. **2 Corinthians 5:18 “And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;”**
 - iii. Jesus reconciles us to God, and now we are to do the same for others (put ourselves in their shoes as unbelievers)
 - iv. And then, once reconciled to God, to be reconciled to one another (put ourselves in one another’s shoes)
 - v. **Ephesians 2:11-18**

1. How many of the fruits in Galatians five are relational, both flesh and Spirit?
 - a. Relational – have to do with our relationships with others
 - b. Galatians 5:19-23
 - c. Fruits of the flesh – hatred, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy
 - d. Fruits for the Spirit – Love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, self-control
 - i. Negative conclusion – Galatians 5:26 “Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.”
 - ii. Positive
 1. At church – 1 Peter 3:8 “Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:”
 2. Everywhere else – 1 John 3:17 “But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?”
2. This is Jesus’ way
 - a. God sees the needs of humans, and meets those needs
 - b. The greatest example of compassion EVER!
 - c. Hebrews 4:15-16 “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

IV. Conclusion

- a. Thank you for showing Christ-like compassion to the Harrises with support
- b. Thank you for showing Christ-like compassion to their church by sending us
- c. Let’s make compassion a way of life
 - i. Many Christians fail to overcome the cultural difference with unbelievers, because we respond like the ladies of the help-desk
 1. “That is not what I am here for” (I can’t see your point)
 2. “You have to find that somewhere else”
 3. Unbelievers walk away frustrated and unreconciled
 - ii. Let’s take our cue from the man with the broom
 1. Put yourself in their shoes
 2. Stop, serve, show kindness
 3. The love of Jesus is not a theory it is a lifestyle!
 4. Compassion overcomes cultural differences and opens doors