

Summary- HAVE COMPASSION ON A NEEDY WORLD

Matt 25: 31-46; Mk Mark 8:1-8 5th December 2021

What does Christian compassion really mean? True Compassion involves an experience of intimacy by which a person participates in the life of another. The truly compassionate individual makes sacrifices for the good of others, to rescue them from suffering. It's passion with a heart. In the gospels, Jesus is moved with compassion so He healed the sick, provided food for the hungry thereby showing God's love to people. Jesus' greatest demonstration of compassion for a needy world that cannot help itself, was dying on the cross for your sins & mine, so that we can be reconciled to God.

Jesus referred to the outcasts in the world—the handicapped, poor, imprisoned, those considered “the least” and perhaps lost—and he said, “Those people are just like me. If you love me, then you will also love them.” (See Matthew 25:31-46.)

It's easy to love the healthy, the successful, and the glamorous. God calls us to a higher standard—to love the needy in the world just as he does. “Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

WHY SHOULD WE HAVE COMPASSION?

Matt 25 vs 31-46 gives us a clue. In that passage, Jesus points out **why we should have compassion**. At first the passage may look like a gospel of works - to inherit God's kingdom, we should feed the hungry, offer cups of tea, house the stranger, care for the sick and visit prisoners. These are all good works of charity that Christians should do, but *Jesus is not saying these good works in themselves guarantee us inheritance of His kingdom?* Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection paid for our sins which we could never achieve through any good works.

V37 begins, *'The righteous will ask, when did we do these things you talk about?'* Jesus doesn't say that their good works made them righteous. They were addressed as righteous and were even unaware of the time they did the righteous works of Christ. How did they become righteous? Ephesians 2:8-10, enlightens us: *'For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.* James 2:17 makes it clear that the faith that saves is the faith that works, because that is what we are saved and made righteous to do while here on earth. The good works Christ mentioned in Matthew, should characterize the life of the believer in Christ. **Compassion for the needy should mark the life of Christ's followers.** Christianity and compassion go hand-in-hand.

- **So, we should be compassionate because we belong to Christ.** God wants you & me to reflect the likeness of Jesus in our lives & community.
- If asked why, we show such compassion, we must take the opportunity to say that the love of Christ in our hearts compels us to do so. Don't settle for the accolade of *a good person* alone.
- It gladdens the heart of Jesus when we show compassion like him and acknowledge him as the motive behind our efforts. That is why he's saying, I will be proud of your works on the last day.

HOW DO WE SHOW COMPASSION?

- Real compassion cares for both body and soul.
- Matthew 25 teaches us to see Christ in other people.

- In Mark 6:34; When Jesus saw the crowd, (v34) *he had compassion on them and healed their sick*. He abandoned His plans for rest and reflection, put his personal needs on the back burner, **and began teaching them**.
- Give of what God has blessed you with for his use. He still multiplies 7 loaves to feed thousands of people. (Matthew 8:1-8). Nothing is ever too small to give to the needy.
- Be a Good Samaritan, you can go solo or team up with charities you know – Tear Fund, Compassion Uk, Open Doors etc,.
- Invest into a life of a child today, and you might be helping a future giant for the gospel of Christ. Surely God has brought to our minds, or will bring to our minds, those He wants us to touch with His compassion.

Many people in the world today are living on the garbage and trash of others. We have more than we could ever need. In our homes, food is often wasted and poured back into the ground, while so many others go to bed hungry every night. It is heart breaking to see a child going hungry, and or an older person who lacks food. We should have compassion, because Jesus did, and still does. He wants to work through you and me.

Application:

- As a church we support Seniors, Youths, CC Tots and others. Does our compassion stop at just standing alongside people or are we able to share the gospel as Jesus wants us to whenever he gives us the opportunity?
- Having listened to the presentation of Compassion Uk, are you minded to reach out to a needy child today or you will seriously consider it in the immediate future?