

“The Purpose of Compassion”

Matthew 9v27-38

**Scripture Ref: Rom 1:20; Ps 146:8-9, Isa 42:6-8; Ps 96:1-3; Is 61:1-3;
Matt 5:14-16; 1 Pet 2:9**

- 1. Compassion: It’s a word tossed around a lot today... It’s used to get you to sponsor a child in another country, maybe give to the United Way, Feed the hungry -**
 - a. It’s the centerpiece for many of the worlds religions...**
 - b. H.H. the Dalai Lama : The whole purpose of religion is to facilitate love and compassion, patience, tolerance, humility, forgiveness.**
 - c. Webster Def: a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering.**
- 2. The point behind compassion is not only to recognize the suffering of another, but a call to action to do something about it.**
 - a. It’s also something that Jesus modeled in His ministry – compassion.**

The Blind will See

27 When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, *"Son of David, have mercy on us!"*

28 And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, ***"Do you believe that I am able to do this?"***

They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."

30 And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it." 31 But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country.

- 3. A person who is blind cannot see God’s physical revelation – the earth, the trees,**
 - a. The rainbow of infinite colors that God created, the expanse of the ocean, the countless of the stars in the night sky, the pure blue sky.**
 - b. All of these things have purpose, as Paul writes...**

Rom 1:20 *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead,*

- 4. But there is something much worse than being physically blind, and that is being spiritually blind.**

- a. The physically blind cannot see the infinite colors,
 - i. but the spiritually blind cannot see the infinite love of God,
 - b. The physically blind cannot see the expanse ocean,
 - i. but the spiritually blind cannot see the limitless grace of God, ready to be extended to anyone who needs.
 - c. The physically blind cannot see countless stars in the sky,
 - i. but the spiritually blind cannot see the unlimited mercy of God, ready to forgive sin
 - d. The physically blind cannot see pure blue the sky
 - i. But the spiritually blind cannot see the purity and holiness of God
 - e. Just as the blind cannot see light, the spiritually blind cannot see the light of the world – Jesus Christ.
5. That is why the Psalmist wrote...

Ps 146:8-9

8 The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; The LORD raises those who are bowed down;;

Isa 42:6-8

6 "I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles, 7 To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house. 8 I am the LORD, that is My name;

6. The spiritually blind are not able to see the light of Jesus because they have been blinded by the god of this world.

2 Cor 4:1-6

Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. ...

3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. 5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. 6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The Mute will Speak

32 As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. 33 And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!"

34 But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons."

7. **Here we're confronted with a situation where a man is mute – but the reason is that he is demon possessed.**
 - a. **This can be a little freaky for some people – the thought that a demon could possess a person and cause them to be sick.**
 - i. **Some people take this to the extreme – believing that every sickness is caused by a demon**
 - ii. **Others may think that is crazy, all this demon stuff.**
 - b. **But the fact is, we are presented with several instances in scripture where physical sickness or limitation is caused by demonic activity.**
 - c. **Not all sickness is caused by demonic – but some is –**
 - d. **Christians are not able to be possessed – but we can be oppressed**
8. **But of more importance is the result of this possession – this person cannot speak.**
 - a. **The act of speaking is something that God gave to mankind,**
 - b. **Think of the usefulness –the ability to communicate what we want, what we need, to debate and to relay knowledge and wisdom.**
 - c. **The gift of speech can be used in many ways – both as a blessing and a curse!**
 - i. **Some use it to puff up themselves, or to cut others down, or to speak blasphemies against God.**
 - ii. **Others use it to bless and encourage others, to build others up, to declare the wonder of God.**
9. **Think about the positive, relational aspects of speech –**
 - a. **To communicate our love and affection to those we love**
 - b. **To lift up and praise and encourage others**
 - c. **To bring the praise God...**

Ps 96:1-3

Oh, sing to the LORD a new song!

Sing to the LORD, all the earth.

2 Sing to the LORD, bless His name;

Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.

3 Declare His glory among the nations,

His wonders among all peoples.

d. To communicate the truth of God – the good news of salvation:

Isa 61:1-3

*"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me,
Because the LORD has anointed Me
To preach good tidings to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD,
And the day of vengeance of our God;
To comfort all who mourn,
3 To console those who mourn in Zion,
To give them beauty for ashes,
The oil of joy for mourning,
The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;
That they may be called trees of righteousness,
The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."
(The scripture Jesus read in the synagogue at Nazareth, Luke 4:16-20)*

10. So – these two aspects of our humanity – sight, speech, things that God has given us as a picture of a spiritual reality...

- a. To be able to see God – to come to the revelation (or revealing) that God is real
- b. To speak forth the truth of who God is and what He has done for us.
- c. God has given us these gifts for a reason – they are tools to be used as part of a greater purpose – to reach out to a lost and dying world!

11. Our Purpose – to know Him and to be a light to others!

- a. We have to come to terms with the fact that God didn't create this world and everything in it just so we can live and eat and drink and die.
 - i. We were created to bring praise and honor to God our creator...

Matt 5:14-16

14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

- b. And I believe that in order to begin to walk in that purpose requires us to begin to see ourselves as part of something**
- c. Something that has long-lasting impact – something bigger than ourselves!**

12. It is a known fact that we as humans have a need to be a part of something greater than ourselves.

- a. It permeates all of humanity – we form clubs, join causes, become part of movements**
- b. Companies tap into it to motivate employees**
- c. Governments use it to manipulate its citizens**
- d. Some of the greatest achievements of man, the great civilizations of the past, accomplished what they did because people came together and saw themselves as part of something great:**
 - i. Babylonian, or Persian, or Greek, or Roman Empire.**

13. And I don't believe that the need to be part of something bigger is some random genetic survival mutation

- a. But that it was put there by an all-knowing God, who programmed us with His nature so that we could engage in His eternal Kingdom Work here on earth.**

The Compassion of Jesus

35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. 36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

14. Jesus had compassion – but His compassion went beyond just wanting to feed people, to heal them, to help them see and speak

- a. His compassion went to the root of the problem of man – the need for a savior**
- b. The fact that sin and death are a scourge on the human race, and even if you feed a person, or heal them,**
- c. Without a relationship with Jesus Christ – they will still die and spend eternity in hell!**

37 Then He said to His disciples, ***"The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."***

15. Check it out – Jesus didn't say "It's time to plant" or "Its time to wait for the crop to come up".
- a. He said three things(1) the harvest it truly plentiful, (2) the laborers are few, (3) pray for more laborers

Plentiful Harvest

16. Jesus us saying to you and I "There are plenty of people who are have a need for God"
- a. **FACT:** If you can't find anyone to minister to, then you either live on an island, or you are not looking!
 - b. *(I can ask my boys to clean up their mess, and they'll look at me and say "what mess" – and the room is strewn with their stuff. They fall over it trying to get out!)*
 - c. There are people everywhere that are hurting, that are suffering, that are in bondage to their sin – and they are looking for a way out – and **YOU KNOW THE WAY!**
 - d. You just have to open your eyes!

Laborers are Few

17. While the harvest might by plentiful, often the problem is that there are not enough harvesters.
- a. In California, when its harvest time, they farmers know 2 things (1) the harvest not reap itself, and (2) the harvest will rot in the field if it's not gathered in time.
 - b. Interesting metaphor Jesus uses!
18. What God has called us to is "knowing Him, and reaching others with His gospel"
- a. That means we can't sit on the couch and reap the harvest, we can't reap it on the computer, or even studying our bible!
 - b. We have to go out into the field! And guess what, the field is not always the most pleasant place:
 - i. It can be hot, smelly and dirty!
 - ii. It can be hard work!
 - iii. It can be thankless work!
 - c. But if the workers don't take to the field, the harvest won't be accomplished.

So...Pray for Laborers

- 19. Well, we can pray for laborers, but I'll be honest, I think that prayer has been answered – at least partially**
- a. I mean – here we are, right? Imagine a group of harvesters, sitting on the edge of a field, looking at the wheat, and saying “boy, I wish we had some people to harvest that wheat.”**
 - b. Here we are – here we sit – what are we going to do?**
 - c. Are we willing to engage? Engage in the work of the Lord!**
 - d. It'll get you connected, it'll get you started, you'll begin to get a feel for what your gifts and calling are**
 - e. And you will be a part of something bigger than yourself!**

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