

“Compassion Again”

Mark 8:1-10

I. Compassion Illustration

II. This illustration really shows a great example of compassion.

1. The little boy didn't want to have someone give him something.
2. He wanted to be the one doing the giving.

III. In our studies of the gospel of Mark we have seen numerous occasions of the compassion Jesus had for his fellow man.

IV. It should be noted that, in part, it's this compassion which led the lost to follow Him.

1. Jesus did not come seeking to get something for himself.
2. Jesus came to give something
3. **Mark 10:45**

V. In our lesson today we will be considering another example of the compassion of Jesus.

VI. Here we are going to learn that... **the compassion of Jesus satisfies completely**

VII. What does it mean to say the compassion of Jesus satisfies completely?

1. **Jesus' compassion satisfies physically.**
2. **Jesus' compassion satisfies spiritually.**

VII. As disciples we must learn to have this same kind of compassion so that we might help bring our fellow man to Christ. Remember, **“No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care.”**

Trans: Let's begin by considering our first point.

1. Jesus' compassion satisfies physically.

A. The compassion that satisfies physically is seen in two ways.

1. In **Matt 15:29-31**, Jesus is healing all their illnesses
2. In **Mark 8:1-4**, Jesus sees a hungry crowd who needs to be fed.
 - a. The needs of this group seem to be great
 1. **There is a great multitude - 4000+**
 2. **They have been with Jesus 3 days**
 3. **They have nothing to eat**
 4. **They were in a desolate place**
 5. **Jesus was concerned for their health**
 6. **Some had come from a distance.**
 7. **Seven Loaves**
 8. **Few small fish**

b. Mark 8:5-9

1. Jesus' compassion leads Him to address their physical need through a miracle.
2. **They ate and were satisfied**
3. There were satisfied because Jesus supplied an abundance.
 - a. The large baskets were large enough to hold a man
 - b. Acts 9:23-25

B. Time and again, in the gospel of Mark, the compassion Jesus had for the physical needs of the people is demonstrated.

1. **Mark 1:40,41**

2. Jesus' ministry was one that involved helping those with physical needs.
 - a. Mark 1:29-31, Simon's mother-in-law healed
 - b. Mark 1:32-34, Healed those who were ill with various diseases
 - c. Mark 2:1-12, Paralytic healed
 - d. Mark 3:1-5, Man with the withered hand healed
 - e. Mark 5:21-43, Jairus' daughter raised from the dead, woman with the issue of blood healed.
 - f. Mark 6:33-43, 5000 feed
 - g. Mark 6:53-56, Multitudes healed
3. Previous to the feeding of the 4000 Jesus' compassion is demonstrated.
 - a. Mark 8:31-37
 - b. "He has done all things well."

Appl: At the close of this miracle there is no mention as to how this affected the people.

But this would be logical if Mark wants us to see an example of how Jesus' compassion satisfies the physical needs of the people completely.

There is no need to go into how the people responded other than to note that they were physically satisfied through His compassion.

The people had a need and Jesus meet that need. So we see then that **the compassion of Jesus satisfies completely.**

Trans: There is a second part to this miracle beyond the obvious physical. This is our second point.

2. Jesus' compassion satisfies spiritually.

A. The spiritual message we find in the feeding of the 4000 is twofold.

1. It provides future spiritual hope for the gentiles,
 - a. In Mark 8:24-30, a syrophenician woman came to Jesus with a spiritual request
 1. Remove the demon from her daughter
 2. Yet she was a gentile and Jesus had come to the children of Israel.
 3. She asked for the children's crumbs which fell from their table.
 4. Jesus grants her request.
 - b. Mark states, "It was in those days" that Jesus feed the 4000.
 1. This might indicate that the audience was at least partially gentile.
 2. The Syrophenician woman asked for crumbs.
 3. This crowd was fully satisfied from what Jesus gave them.
 4. Although this is a physical act it has spiritual overtones.
2. Secondly it provided another opportunity for Jesus disciples to develop spiritually.
 - a. At the feeding of the 5000 we see that the disciples had not gained any insight from what he did, **Mark 6:51,52**
 - b. In this feeding we see a similar response, **Mark 8:4**
 - c. There is no question that these are separate events, **Mark 8:17-21**

B. Jesus' ministry was one that demonstrated the compassion Jesus had for the spiritual needs of the people.

1. In the feeding of the 5000 Jesus felt compassion for the spiritual needs of the people

2. **Mark 6:33,34**

C. Time and again, in the gospel of Mark, we see the compassion Jesus had for the spiritual needs of the people.

1. Mark 1:15, the kingdom is at hand repent and believe.

2. Mark 1:17, become fishers of men.

3. Mark 1:22, He taught with authority

4. Mark 2:5, your sins are forgiven

5. Mark 2:14ff, Jesus eats with sinners and tax-gatherers

6. Mark 2:17, Jesus came to call sinners

7. Mark 3:31-35, Jesus teaches on who his family is, those who do the will of God.

8. Mark 4:1-20, Jesus speaks of the sower and the seed, the true heart of a believer.

9. Mark 4:21-32, Jesus teaches on the spiritual work of a disciple.

10. Mark 4:35-41, Jesus questions the apostles lack of faith.

11. Mark 7:1-23, Jesus teaches on that which truly defiles.

D. That same need and compassion is available today.

1. Spiritually speaking, without Christ we find ourselves in a desolate land as well.

Eph. 2:11-13

2. But Jesus' is the bread of life that satisfies our spiritual longing, **John 6:47-48**

App!: The miracle of feeding the 4000 clearly has spiritual overtones.

There is a connection between the gentile woman and her request for crumbs and the fully satisfied audience Jesus feeds.

As well the disciples were still not fully grasping Jesus' work and this was another opportunity for spiritual growth.

Ultimately, the people had a spiritual need and Jesus meet that need.

So we see then that **the compassion of Jesus satisfies completely.**

Con:

1. Jesus' compassion satisfies physically.

2. Jesus' compassion satisfies spiritually.

The compassion of Jesus satisfies completely.

Compassion Illustration

There is a story of a well-to-do businessman who gave an expensive car to his brother. One day when the brother went to the place he'd parked the car, he saw a ragged boy looking the car over with great interest. Instead of saying, "Get away from that car, kid," he smiled at the youngster.

The boy was the first to speak. "Is that car yours, Mister?" "Yes, it is," was the reply. "What did it cost?" was the next question. "Nothing," said the man. The boy looked at him curiously and said, "You don't look like the kind of guy who would steal a car." The owner laughed and said, "No, it was a present from my brother." The boy seemed incredulous. "Do you mean to say he gave it to you as a present, and it didn't cost you anything?" "That's right."

Then the boy said the most surprising thing of all: "I sure do wish I could be such a brother as yours." One might have expected him to say, "How I wish I could have such a brother as yours." The man asked him what he meant, and he explained: "I'll tell you. My youngest brother had polio and he can't walk to see all the shops in town and enjoy the toys, at least by seeing them in the windows. How I wish I had a car like this to take him around. Our father died, and we won't get any presents this Christmas. But at least I can walk along the streets and enjoy the shop windows; my brother can't even do this. That's why I'd like to be a brother like your brother."