



*‘Now!’ Sermon Series*

Sermon #24

*‘Compelled to be Compassionate!’*

*Mark 6:35-44*

Sunday, October 13th, 2024

*Last week in ‘NOW’ sermon series:*

- Last week Pastor Steve did a great job in guiding us through Mark 6:30-34.
  - *So thankful for him, his preaching, and his overall ministry in our Church.*
- Steve stated that his goal last week was of course to preach the Word (which he did, faithfully), but also to set me up to pick up this morning as we look at one of the most well known passages of scriptures to ‘Church Goers!’.
  - *While many Church goers and attenders know this story in Jesus ministry by heart and have*

*its main outline memorized, we don’t live it like we should.*

*‘Compelled to be Compassionate!’*

*Mark 6:35-44*

**Sermon in a Sentence:**

*In this text, Jesus shows us that we should be compelled to be compassionate. He shows us this with the Temptation that Pops Up, the Turning Point, and the Task that He performed.*

**Intro:**

- *There are only two miracles that Jesus performed that all 4 Gospel writers record.*
  - The Bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
  - The Feeding of the 5,000.
- *One trend of Jesus that I have noticed during our study of Mark so far, is that Jesus will seek to meet tangible physical needs, so that He can meet the spiritual needs of others.*
  - *Over the last few weeks this Church has had amazing opportunities to show compassion and love similarly to how Jesus did: Meeting Physical needs in order to meet Spiritual needs.*
    - So many of you have stepped up to provide meals for the community, supplies for Western North Carolina, allowed your family and friends to shower, prepare meals, and some of you even partnered with Swansea First and

physically went to western NC to help them during this time.

- ***So many people in the Big C Church have been stepping up, and showing Compassion.***
  - Compassion is defined as Sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others.
  - *But here's something I want you to think about in light of this mornings message, and our recent world events.*
    - *Why does it often take a tragedy for Christians to be compelled to be compassionate?*
  - Church, I want to encourage us, as we continue to serve with the aftermath of Helene and other natural disasters, may this message from the feeding of the 5,000, compel us to be compassionate *all the time.*
    - To be who Christ has commanded us to be *all the time.*
    - To be the Church, *all the time.*
  - *Jesus will show us in our text this morning that if we want to live and serve Him, we will be compassionate.*
    - ***But we must also seek to be compassionate whether there's a tragedy or not, because we never know what's under the surface***

***and what someone is going through...***

- \*Play the Clip\*
- That clip is such a powerful reminder, that you and I are not God. Meaning it's impossible for us to know *everything* that someone is going through.
  - *But it is very possible, through Christ and the Holy Spirit within us, to be compelled to be compassionate for the sake and Glory of Christ.*
  - *In our text last week, Pastor Steve guided us through how the disciples were told to rest, and as the people recognized them, more needs became apparent.*
    - In that we see that needs are going to pop up when we are busy, tired, peopled out, and how Jesus responds, shows you and I that we never have an excuse for not showing kindness, compassion and love towards others, for the sake of the Gospel.
    - ***NEWSFLASH: The Gospel isn't about you, it's about the King of Glory and serving others so that they might be exposed to this King of Glory through our Compassion...***
- Are you compelled to be compassionate?  
***\*Read Mark 6:35-44\****

## Question to Ask:

*How does Jesus show us that we should be compelled to be compassionate?*

### Truth #1: *The Temptation Pops Up. (V. 35-36)*

- ‘And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. **36** Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”
- It would have most likely been springtime, probably mid april when this would have occurred.
  - *Which means at this time in Palestine, the sun woul have set around 6.*
  - *So I am guessing, but it would have been around 3:30 or 4 PM when the disciples came to Jesus about this.*
    - So the term ‘when it grew late’ is late afternoon, early evening. Late in the day.
  - *You and I are so similar to the disciples.*
    - The temptation that Pops up for the disciples here, is that they want to leave every alone.
    - They want everyone else to figure it out. They want everyone to be on their own for supper.
  - There’s **I** important thing to point out concerning this...
- *A Suggestion from a Place of Selfishness. (V. 35-36)*

- ‘And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. **36** Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”
- *No doubt, the disciples are hungry, tired, and they probably just want to go home. They were peopled out!*
  - And with it being 5,000 men (Matthew adds that it was also women and children), we can see how they were tired of being around people.
- *So what do the disciples suggest?*
  - *‘Jesus, send everyone home! We’re tired, and there’s not enough food around here to feed everybody and if there was, we don’t have enough money. I just asked Judas (treasurer), and he said we don’t have 200 denari worth to feed all these people.’*
- *The suggestion by the disciples is a self serving suggestion.*
  - In reality, they don’t want to meet needs with compassion. They don’t even try. They just suggest to Jesus that He send them away and we start all of this over again tomorrow.
- *\*Word Study\**

- The word ‘desolate’ here, is translated from the greek word **‘Eremos’** *which is found in verses 31 and 32 as well, but in this context it doesn’t mean the land is ugly and dark, it means there are not places to buy food around. It’s desolated, not a village of sorts with a market and everything.*
- **Scholar James Edwards said** *‘Given the lateness of the hour and number of people, even that suggestion had its limits, but it seems to them preferable to doing nothing and allowing a need to escalate into a crisis.’*
  - Obviously, the people are not just hungry, they are hangry.
  - The disciples want Jesus to go ahead and dismiss the people, so that problems don’t arise (where there are people there are problems).
- **We, like the disciples, will often fear what others think or will do if we fill the need, so we just dismiss the need, or turn it over to someone else.**
  - **Don’t expect someone else to fill a need that God placed right in front of you.**
    - *If He had intended the person you’ve dropped the need on to fill it, wouldn’t He had brought that need to their attention first?*

- So often in our lives and even in Church work, we make suggestions and ideas based on what’s easiest to do, and ultimately, what’s easier on us.
  - **We need to shift this focus to be more compassion oriented. How can I meet this need that will reach the most people, and give God the most glory?**
- The temptation that pops up for each and every one of us is when we are faced with a problem, to just leave it or them, alone.
  - **Don’t leave something alone that God can use to get Glory for Himself.**
    - So we see that the temptation pops up, we also see the Turning Point when Jesus responds...

**Truth #2: The Turning Point. (V. 37-40)**

- ‘But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii[f] worth of bread and give it to them to eat?” **38** And he said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” **39** Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. **40** So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties.’
- **When we suggest something to our Lord in prayer and speak with Him, there are times we may not like His response to us.**

- I feel that is the case with the disciples here. Jesus responded to them, and they probably looked at one another with disbelief.
  - ***But is this not what we should desire and hunger for?***
    - When Jesus steps in and tells us something we weren't expecting? Shouldn't we long for the turning point that often occurs when the life giver steps in?
- There are **3** things to point out concerning the turning point that we see with Jesus' response.
- ***Jesus gives them a Command. (V. 37a)***
  - 'But he answered them, "You give them something to eat."
  - I'm sure the disciples had to pick their jaw off of the ground after this one.
    - ***Jesus puts the ball directly back into their court.***
  - ***This would have been a thought provoking question for the disciples, but I believe it is also a thought provoking question for us...***
    - ***Why do we constantly try to get out of Kingdom Building ministry when God has given us the ability for us to meet needs with compassion?***
  - ***Jesus responded this way to get the disciples to think differently.***
- He wanted to transform their thinking from 'How can I get out of this' to 'How can I get through this and give God maximum Glory?'
  - How much more compassionate could we be if this is how you and I met needs?
- ***The Disciples think of Cost. (V. 37b)***
  - 'And they said to him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii[f] worth of bread and give it to them to eat?"
  - ***Sarcastic and disrespectful come to mind when reading the disciples response.***
    - They have the King of Kings in front of them who they have been eyewitnesses to what He can do and what He is capable of.
  - ***Instead, they bring out the issue of money.***
    - For an agricultural laborer, 200 denari would have been 2/3rds of his annual salary.
    - ***The disciples are saying, you really want us to spend 67% of a yearly salary just to feed these people? Why can't we just go home? Like seriously Jesus?***
  - ***They had seen Jesus do many miracles and may wonders as well as phenomenal teaching, but here's one thing, Jesus and the disciples were broke. They did not have much if***

*anything, and the disciples knew this and were concerned...*

- ***The Disciples Collect Food. (V. 38-40)***
  - ‘And he said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” **39** Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. **40** So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties.’
  - ***Jesus does not ask them what they do not have, He asks them what they do have.***
    - So, the disciples are to go out among thousands upon thousands of people, and find some food.
  - ***John’s Gospel tells us in John 6:8-9, that Andrew found a boy with a lunch that no doubt, his thoughtful mother had packed him as he set out to hear from this man named Jesus.***
    - ***What I find so compelling here is that Jesus’ mindset of what can be done in our lives is so contrary to what the culture tells us can be done in our lives...***
  - ***Jesus is saying, give me what you have, and I’ll do the rest.***
    - What do we say?
  - ***Jesus I don’t have all that you need, I’m not the wealthiest, the smartest, I’m not even a***

*good speaker. So, I’m just going to sit on the sidelines, take my ball and go home, because I don’t have what you need.*

- ***Church, don’t you see that is exactly what Jesus wants? He wants what you have.***
  - James Edwards said ***‘Jesus sees possibilities where his disciples see only impossibilities, for God can multiply even the smallest gifts if they are made available to Him.’***
    - You may be having a hard time this morning living a compassionate and God filled life, simply because you aren’t making what you have available to God.
    - ***You are simply pouting about what you don’t have instead of giving Him what you do have.***
  - So far this morning we’ve seen the temptation pop up, the turning point, now we see the Task Performed by Jesus...
- Truth #3: *The Task Performed. (V. 41-44)***
- ‘And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. **42** And they all ate and were satisfied. **43** And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. **44** And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.’

- *Now that Jesus has everyone seated and He is given what they had, (5 loaves and 2 fish), He begins to do what only He can do.*
  - The task of compassion is performed. But I do think we find a simple yet pressing truth: **Give God what you do have, let Him multiply it, instead of worrying about what you do not have.**
- *What we find Jesus doing in these verses, to these people, is exactly what He desires to do in my life and your life.*
  - He wants to demonstrate and show His power and sufficiency in our lives.
  - **But we are too focused on what we DON'T have, instead of looking at the 5 loaves and 2 fish that we do have.**
    - *Living a life of being Compelled to be Compassionate is not looking at what we don't have and saying 'I can't meet that need for someone', but instead looking at what little we do have and saying 'God can meet this need when I give my ALL to Him'.*
  - The early NT Church would come to view this passage as a parallel with the Last supper due to the sequence of words in the greek text that we translate in english to 'taking bread...blessing...giving to the disciples.'

- While I can see the parallel, the whole purpose of this can be summed up in what scholar **James Edwards** wrote concerning the matter: *'The miracle that Jesus performs requires both human resources, inadequate though they are, and the disciples.'*
  - Jesus wants to us us to show His Glory but it starts with being compassionate towards the needs of others.
    - In these verses, I find **2** things to point out concerning the Task our Messiah Performed that day.
- *A Messianic Banquet. (V. 41-42)*
  - 'And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. **42** And they all ate and were satisfied.'
  - *I can't help but think of the contrast we have here with Jesus feeding the people, and the banquet that Herod held in a Sin infested Situation.*
    - Verse 40 is clear that they sat in designated and orderly groups.
    - Herod's Birthday Banquet would have been anything but orderly.

- ***It would have been rambunctious and obnoxious.***
  - But now, Jesus is serving as the host of a Messianic Banquet here. This is not the Messianic Banquet that will occur in Heaven on the Eschatological timeline, I simply mean the people are having a banquet that points to providing and provision of our Messiah.
- ***What started out with a desolate place (no access to readily available food), is now a place of plenty (both food and people).***
  - I want to remind you, that back in the OT, God met the needs of the people through Moses by providing Manna and Quail to meet their physical needs...
    - ‘In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. **14** And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. **15** When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?”[a] For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread that

the LORD has given you to eat.’  
Exodus 16:13-15

- ***This is a Messianic Banquet because Jesus is the host, and He’s provided the food.***
- ***In the minds of the Hebrews, Jesus also showed Himself to be a greater Moses.***
  - ***The Good Shepherd (John 10:11), who was also the Bread of Life (John 6:35).***
    - ‘Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.’ John 6:35
- For those who are here today and are not believers in Christ, let me reveal to you that you cannot show the Compassion of Christ, if Christ is not living inside of you.
  - ***How can you be compelled to be compassionate by someone that you do not yet know and have a relationship with?***
    - If you don’t know Him, you can know the Bread of Life today. Who did not just provide physical food for these people, but the opportunity for everlasting life for ALL people



- when He spilled His Blood for you.
- **Mark in his usual brevity, does not tell us WHAT Jesus prayed.**
  - Most scholars all agree that it was problem the table prayer that was used by the Jews which states ‘Praise be to you, O Lord our God, king of the world, who makes bread to come forth from the earth, and who provides for all that you have created.’
    - **Jesus broke the bread, handed out the fish, and they ate.**
    - According to Mark, they ate until they were satisfied...
- **\*Word Study\***
  - The word ‘satisfied’ in verse 42 is interesting. It comes from the Greek Word **‘Chortazo’ and literally means to feed or fill with Grass (occurs 16 times in NT).**
  - In the greek language, it was a word that found its meaning in the world of agriculture, specifically animals or livestock, eating to the point of being completely full.
  - **This same word ‘Chortazo’ is also used by Jesus in the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:6, ‘they shall be satisfied’.**
- JM said **‘The food Jesus created from nothing was perfect, having never been tainted by the corruption of a fallen world.’ They were satisfied to the point of being full due to the perfection of Christ. We can be too...**
  - With Jesus, you will be satisfied if you live and walk with Him. Furthermore, if you live a life of being compelled to be compassionate, you will be full with His fulfillment and blessings.
    - **The more satisfied/fulfilled you are in Christ Jesus, the more this will ‘free you up’ to be compassionate towards others.**
- We see the Messianic banquet, but don’t miss the Abundant Blessing.
  - **An Abundant Blessing. (V. 43-44)**
    - ‘And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. 44 And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.’
    - **When Jesus steps in, He goes over and beyond what we would ever think or even imagine.**
      - **At the beginning of our text in verses 35-36, the disciples didn’t know where or how the people were going to eat. Or if/what they would eat!**

- *Now, the people have eaten, Jesus made something amazing out of nothing, and get these, there's enough for them...*
  - *In the scholarship and academic world there is so much debate on the significance of the 12 baskets of leftovers from the feeding of the 5,000.*
- Some say Jesus overestimated, some say it represented the 12 tribes of Israel, and many other ideas about this.
- *I believe this represents 12 baskets of leftovers for each of the disciples.*
  - They had been with Jesus, they were tired, and Jesus provided for them, even when they showed little to know faith and patience in the beginning.
  - Even when they were \*too tired\* of being compassionate.
    - *Jesus provides for you and I everyday even when we don't deserve the compassion that He gives.*
  - Dr. Daniel Aiken said *'Where we see a lack, Jesus sees abundance. Where we see human problems, He sees and accomplishes divine possibilities. A little can become a lot with Jesus.'*

- Church, this year that we are quickly embarking on, has the potential to be one of the biggest years in the life of our Church.
  - *We've got a staff position to fill.*
  - *We've got a building to break ground on.*
  - *We've got many needs/opportunities of ministry to be filled.*
    - It's going to be easy to look at the challenges we face in 2025 and say: 'We don't have the money. We don't have the resources. There's no way we can do \_\_\_\_\_.'
  - *And if you say that as we walk into next year, I'll tell you that you're exactly right.*
    - We don't have the money or resources to do all that God has planned right now, and that's okay. He does. And when He provides, it will be more than what we can ever imagine.
- Charles Haddon Spurgeon, the Prince of Preachers said *'Come, then, weary hungry sinner. You have nothing to do but to take Christ... Open your mouth and receive the food! Faith to receive what Christ provides is all that is needed.'*

**Conclusion:**

- As we conclude this morning, I want you to think back to the video that we watched at the beginning of the sermon (under the surface).

- ***I want you to think and reflect on how many people you rub shoulders with daily, that you DON'T know what they are going through.***
- ***Like these hungry people, they may have a pressing physical need that God can use you and your meager resources to meet.***
  - ***You maybe too busy, too hungry, too poor, too scared, too hurt, or just 'not in the mood'.***
    - Remember what God can do in your lives and in the lives of others, if we are just compelled to be compassionate...
- ***\*Personal Illustration\****
  - There was a summer years ago, when an 11 year old boy was all alone.
    - He had lost his school, friends, home and father due to a drug addiction all under the title of ***'Following God's Call'***.
    - His mother had done all she could to provide for the boy. She took all their things and moved them to safety with her parents, his grandparents.
  - ***A year of school for the 11 year old boy about did him in.***
    - No father, no desire for anything, only a dream to escape.
  - The boy loved going to Church and hearing the Gospel. The boy was saved. The boy knew He was saved by Jesus, but didn't quite understand

why Jesus didn't respond to the nightly cries that would go on for hours at a time.

- ***But even he knew what people in the Church house would say about the circumstances that brought this boy to this Church and community.***
- As the summer began, the boy's grandfather came home, and notified him that someone (anonymous), had paid for him to go to summer camp with the rest of the children in the Church.
  - ***This elderly saint knew the circumstances of what was going on, and that if she didn't pay, the boy couldn't go, but she showed compassion.***
- ***While on that Church trip, God got allowed of that boy, and called him to the ministry.***
  - God showed Him that He was the perfectly Heavenly Father who sent His own Son to die for Him.
  - While the boy knew Jesus, He was reminded and challenged by Jesus to go make others aware of this same love he experienced.
- ***This little boy grew up into a man. But even as a man, the little boy was always inside of Him. The little boy who had so much pain, yet the call of God was stronger than any pain.***

- As the boy grew up, went to college, and even became a Pastor, he never forgot about the elderly saint, who was compelled to be compassionate. And pay for him to attend camp. It all started, with the compassion of that woman.
- *The little boy who was affected by the elderly saint's compassion was me.*
  - Your Pastor is the little boy in this story. It's time for you to leave this place, being compelled to be compassionate.