

Send Me – Part 3 “A Heart of Compassion”

Welcome Church Family

Series – Send Me (love they neighbor, settled & sent...today is a special day)

Title of Message: A Heart of Compassion

- This has been a hard season for everyone personally, challenges in our jobs, schools, but today, we want to set our sights not on ourselves and our needs, but we want to look at a story where Jesus had needs of his own, but instead his heart of compassion leads him to a place where a miracle takes place.

PRAY

Mark 6

- o Jesus has a full life - Teaching from village to village (miracles, healing, ministering)
- o Sending out the Disciples and teaching them how to walk in the authority without being right there with Jesus (slow down and gives them very specific instructions)
- o Then he finds out that a woman, who had been holding offense against John the Baptist for speaking truth, convinces the King to have him beheaded – So Jesus and the disciples find out that John the Baptist has been beheaded.

Mark 6:31-34 *³¹ Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”*

³² So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.

- Jesus was exhausted, ready for quiet and rest
- They went away, all alone...probably tired physically and emotionally
- **ILL:** Ever been there? I just need some ALONE TIME. (Parents, tired of kids tugging on you. Guys – hungry – I just need to eat. Teenagers/Young adults – can I just sleep in please?)

- Living a life for others can be tiring.

*³³ But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, **he had compassion on them**, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.*

- So people saw Jesus leaving in the boat and run on foot (hungry to see Jesus – in need)
- They were like Sheep without a Shepherd (*sheep can't live for long without a shepherd*)
- In other words: Jesus was saying: I see that they need a safe place to land, they need water and protection...
- But let's key in on the motivator for action: **HE DIDN'T JUST SEE THEM** (those people have a need – someone should do something about it – someone else who isn't as tired as me)
- **HE HAD COMPASSION ON THEM**

- **Jesus's heart of compassion led him to action!**
 - **A heart of compassion to meet their needs**
 - To be there with them
 - To teach them
 - And what happens next is one of the greatest miracles recorded in scripture – the people were hungry because they had run all day to find Jesus and then he teaches them...and then everyone realizes that there is no food...
 - There is a practical need that was getting in the way of the spiritual moment
 - Jesus shows that he cares about the needs of the people (not only spiritually, but practically) – it was important to him that these people were hungry.
 - “Who’s going to feed them?”
 - And a little boy is the one who steps up with “five loaves & two fish” to be exact

Mark 6:39-42 “Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. ⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² They all ate and were satisfied.”

- Jesus breaks the loaves of bread, multiplies the fish and ends up “feeding the 5,000” that day (more like 15,000 with women and children)
- **Our tired + God's heart of Compassion = a recipe for a Miracle!**
 - Yes, the disciples and Jesus were tired and hungry themselves
 - But the heart of compassion that motivated them to go beyond themselves was the perfect condition for God to provide answers – not only for the people but for them!
 - When we say, “send me” we never know where the seeds of our yes will fall. We never know who God might be wanting to touch, use...imagine the stories those 15,000 people told for years. Imagine what that one boy told!

Today is Compassion Sunday and it's with a heart of compassion that we are challenging each of us to consider looking beyond ourselves, beyond our needs and seeing (like Jesus saw) & doing (like Jesus and the disciples did) that day.

COMPASSION VIDEO

Two ways that we partner with Compassion:

1. **Corporately: through our Child Survival Program in Chalamarca, Peru.**
 - For those of you who are new to NLC, we have a child survival program that we support for \$25,000 a year. Done this for years now.
<https://stewardship.compassion.com/nextlevelchurch/>
 - **Here's why:** In the developing world, the first five years of life are often the most difficult and challenging. Of the 17,000 children under age 5 who die each day, 73 percent die before their

first birthday — nearly half within the first 28 days of life. Compassion established the Child Survival Program because they believe these obstacles to healthy development can be removed and because all children deserve to be given the best chance to reach their God-given potential.

- **We have been able to help and save hundreds of babies over the years.**
- **Even through the pandemic, Compassion has continued through our Kingdom Builders generosity to care for mothers and babies in Chalamarca.**
 - **Picture**
 - **Picture**
 - **Picture**
 - **Picture – Letter from Carmela**
- **ILL: When we were there, the Mom said: “Thank you for my table. We used to eat on the floor.”**

2. Personally through Child Sponsorship.

- **Matt & Sarah Personal Stories** (Picture of Matt & Sergio) / (Our family with Sergio & Steven)
- **Invite Karen (and David) Crowther** up to share about their sponsored child
 - Picture Collage
- **Invite Billy (and Rachel) Cossette** up to share about their sponsored child
 - Picture Collage
- **Invite Drew up** (Share about how this shaped his childhood – pictures of him sponsoring Nigusu & Stories of meeting him)

- The pandemic has only increased the need of those who are in extreme poverty.

- Extreme poverty means that a family lives on less than \$1.90 per day
- Poverty not only leaves people hungry, but often times hopeless
- Because schools have closed down out of safety, many of these children are now years behind and it can all add up

But compassion exists to release children from poverty in Jesus’ Name!

- **Compassion Slide with their logo and mission statement**
- They partner with churches and it’s not about “compassion”
- It’s about the church, about Jesus, and about their sponsor who cares about them

- To date, as a church, we have sponsored 977 Kids!

- **Hold up Sponsored Picture (take a picture of this to show everyone)**
- **We want to blow this out of the water – what could happen if we said “send me” today?**
- **What if we all increased our heart of compassion for the world?**

Jesus says in Matthew 25 that whatever we do for the “least of these” we do it for Jesus.

- **When someone is sick, hungry, thirsty, in need of clothes...when we do something FOR them, we are doing it for Jesus**

- It's a heart of compassion, to not just look the other way. Assume it's someone else's problem to fix.
- No, he's put us here and given us much...let's do something!

Challenge:

- **Locally:** We are going to get out and serve our city this week (groups, projects, orange army)
- **Globally:** All of our locations – packets of children on the walls around you & in the foyer
 - Financial investment: \$38 a month
 - Personal Letters & Prayer: Download the APP – write your child (the letters mean more than you could know)
- **Online** – text “nextlevel” to _____ (*only if you're online – in person we need you to choose a child*)

Salvation – maybe you're like the people on the hillside that day (in need, sheep w/o a shepherd) – Jesus cares for you!

PRAY

“Send me” Song (if people want to get up and look at a packet and bring back to their seat they can...)

Matt & Sarah close the service in prayer and action – “God, send us!” – go choose a child today & let's serve our city with the love of Jesus this week!!!