

KINGDOM COME



2

The Compassion of Jesus

Community Group Study Guide: **Mark 8:1-10** –Week of January 14th, 2024

1. The Compassion of Jesus

Once more, a large crowd of people are following Jesus. They pursue Him to hear Him speak and to be blessed by His miracles. In our passage, they had been following Him for three days. The people had been so captivated by Christ, by the Word of God, that they had even forgone eating. They had been so focused on Christ, and on His message that the cares of the world had faded away. Even though they did not know their need, their Savior did. It's in this moment, that Jesus looks upon the Gentile crowd and He chooses to act on their behalf. The reason for His action? Compassion. Even though they were not the people of Israel, God was moved with compassion by their needs. Jesus was moved deeply by those who were following Him. As imitators of Christ, we must ask ourselves... do we have compassion? Is that compassion extended to everyone? Are we more like the disciples, trying to push away those in need? Do we pray that God would intercede and meet needs? Are we sensitive to the needs of those around us, caring for their wellbeing? Jesus modeled this conduct of us, in that He had compassion.

2. The Power of Jesus

Once again, Jesus acts in a seemingly paradoxical way. He sees the needs of the people. From there, He turns to those who in themselves cannot address those needs. He does this because He is still training His disciples to do His mission. Jesus wants to remind their hearts of their inability in themselves to meet the needs presented. Jesus is showing them that their strengths will not complete the task, and that only by His power can the task be accomplished. All the people, disciples included, required Christ's power to be satisfied. Praise God, the compassion and power of Jesus met the needs of all who hungered that day. For us today, the message is still the same. Jesus is the one who provides. It is His Gospel. It is His power that saves. We are called to simply submit ourselves to the

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

It was God's compassion on us, that He moved to save us from our sins. We see this demonstrated over and over by Jesus, and we are called to likewise model this compassion.

Heart

Often, our hearts are challenged to be compassionate. We are called to see that Jesus' compassion extended to all different types of people, and was not limited to Jew or Gentile. Likewise, we are to be moved to compassion in a similar way that Christ was, not limiting that compassion to our own personal preferences.

Hands

We are to engage with others through love and compassion, trusting God to use our faithfulness to bring about good through the working of His power.

power of Jesus.

3. The Satisfaction of Jesus

The bread that Jesus gives brings complete satisfaction. When Jesus fed the five thousand, there remained 12 baskets of food. This represented the 12 tribes of Israel. In this situation, 7 baskets are left over, representing the 7 tribes of gentiles that were driven out of the land of Canaan. In both situations, Jesus shows that His provision is enough to fully satisfy, both for Jew and Gentile.

Read Mark 8:1-10

1. Have you ever experienced total fascination and satisfaction with the Word of God like we see from the Gentiles in this passage? What caused it? What effect did it have on your life? How is it active in your life today?
2. In our passage, Jesus is once more moved to compassion for the crowd. How is this time different? What does this difference teach us about Christ and His character?
3. Consider the behavior of the disciples in both Mark 6:30-44 and this passage. What lesson was Jesus trying to teach them? In what ways are those lessons applicable to us?
4. We often struggle to respond in compassion to those around us. How do we grow in this area? How can we cultivate a compassionate response?
5. Has the Lord given you a gut-wrenching compassion? What actions have you taken in response?
6. In a short period of time, Jesus feeds both a crowd of five thousand and of four thousand. What are the important differences between these two events? What was the significance of each? How do we know that Mark did not accidentally duplicate the recording of one event?
7. **Read Verse 5-8** How does this imagery reflect the Gospel? What does it teach us about our role in the Kingdom work of the Gospel?