

When Compassion Opens Our Eyes

Matthew 9:36-38 (NASB 2020) Seeing the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He *said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.”

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I. The Motivation is Compassion, not Pressure

Matthew 9:36 (NASB 2020) Seeing the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast, like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 14:14 (NASB 2020) When He came ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.

Matthew 20:33-34 (NASB 2020) They *said to Him, “Lord, we want our eyes to be opened.” Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes, and immediately they regained their sight and followed Him.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NASB 2020) If I speak with the tongues of mankind and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give away all my possessions to charity, and if I surrender my body so that I may glory, but do not have love, it does me no good.

II. Responsibility always follows Revelation

****Ezekiel 33:6 (NASB 2020)** But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the horn and the people are not warned, and a sword comes and takes a person from them, he is taken away for his wrongdoing; but I will require his blood from the watchman’s hand.’

There are not only sins of commission, but there are sins of omission!

James 4:17 (NASB 2020) So for one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, for him it is sin.

James 2:15-17 (NASB 2020) If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? In the same way, faith also, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

Proverbs 24:11-12 (NASB 2020) Rescue those who are being taken away to death, And those who are staggering to the slaughter, Oh hold them back! If you say, “See, we did not know this,” Does He who weighs the hearts not consider it? And does He who watches over your soul not know it? And will He not repay a person according to his work?

The transferable theological principle—From Proverbs 24:11-12, we get this principle: While Proverbs 24 is speaking broadly about rescuing those being swept toward destruction, the principle confronts every area where we know the good we ought to do. If this applies to physical injustice, how much more does it apply to eternal reality? If we know the truth that saves and choose silence, Scripture does not call that wisdom—it calls it sin.

Moral awareness creates moral responsibility. Knowledge without action incurs accountability before God. That principle is timeless, and James leans on it heavily.

People without Christ are “drawn toward death” (Romans 6:23)—Believers know the gospel (Romans 10:14 -17)—Believers have the means to intervene (Matthew 28:18-20)

Silence is not neutrality; it is omission. Yet the call of Christ is not driven by guilt, but by love. The same compassion we have received is meant to flow through us.

III. Silence Feels Safer Than Obedience

John 12:42-43 (NASB 2020) Nevertheless many, even of the rulers, believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, so that they would not be excommunicated from the synagogue; for they loved the approval of people rather than the approval of God.

Acknowledge: Fear of rejection, Fear of awkwardness, Fear of “messing it up”, Fear of being labeled

There are some believers who don't stay silent because they don't care—they stay silent because they care and are afraid.

Luke 10:27-29 (NASB 2020) And he answered, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live." But wanting to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Sometimes silence comes from fear. Other times it comes from a quiet desire to limit responsibility. The man in Luke 10 didn't deny the command—he tried to redefine it.

Luke is showing that some believers avoid sharing the gospel not because they don't know, but because they want to control the cost of obedience.

Matthew 25:44-45 (NASB 2020) Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or as a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it for one of the least of these, you did not do it for Me, either.'

Conclusion:

I'm not asking you to become a street preacher or say everything perfectly. I'm asking you to be faithful with the people God has already put within arm's reach. Someone doesn't need all the answers—they need someone willing to speak.

2 Corinthians 5:14 (NASB 2020) For the love of Christ controls us...

1 John 4:11-12 (NASB 2020) Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God remains in us, and His love is perfected in us.

Matthew 9:38 (NASB 2020) ...Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."