

Compassion Matters

1.(Serve) Ebed-Melech (Jeremiah 38-39) – Compassion and Action

African man in a Hebrew court helping a disgraced prophet. The truth of Jeremiah's words are unwelcome but Ebed-Melech has to be just as bold and truthful. "What they have done is evil" (Jeremiah 38:9).

- Acknowledging a problem: The man in the cistern.
- Draw to Compassion: A man unfairly treated and left to die. (Injustice)
- Action: Bold proclamation of truth and a well thought out rescue.

2.The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) – Compassion and Action

Samaritan man helping a beaten and bruised man. Cleaned and bandaged his wounds, gave up his seat, took him to the inn, and spared no expense to make sure he was cared for. When everyone turned their face the Samaritan turned to action.

- Acknowledging a problem: The man in the ditch.
- Draw to Compassion: A man robbed, beaten, and broken and left to die.
- Action: Every wound cleaned, every wound bandaged, every expense covered.

3.(Lead) Jesus Feeds the 5000 (Matthew 14) – Compassion and Action

Jesus is grieving the loss of John the Baptist. He is hurt, tired, and looking for a place to be alone and pray. The crowd follows him around the lake and meets him on the other side. Jesus has compassion on them because they are lost and without a shepherd. Jesus not only heals their sick but teaches and feeds them as well.

- Acknowledging a problem: The crowd right in front of them.
- Draw to Compassion: They are hurting, sick, lost, and broken.

- Action: He heals their physical ailments, provides physical nourishment, provides Spiritual nourishment, and spends extra time with them.

Fun Fact: The disciples tell Jesus to send the people away to fend for themselves, and Jesus sends his disciples away to spend more time with the people.

4. (Disciple) Us – Compassion and Action?

Compassion is not just a feeling. Compassion requires action. Not just any action but slow, intentional, and thoughtful action. This is modeled by Ebed-Melech, The Good Samaritan, and most importantly Jesus.

- Acknowledging a problem: In order for us to model Christ's version of compassion we must be willing to move at the speed of Jesus. A slow, methodical, and intentional speed that is unbothered by those who need help.
- Draw to Compassion: Have you had an experience that drew you towards compassion recently?
- Action: Are you moving at the speed necessary to not just feel a twinge of sympathy in your heart but to act with compassion in a moment of need.

Compassion is not just for the homeless, the sick, or the broken hearted. We must feel the same level of compassion for those who do not know the truth of Jesus. This compassion motivates us to action of sharing the faith of Jesus. As you all head into the next stage of your lives whether you are graduating high school, college, going to work tomorrow, or moving to another country. We are called to not just feel compassion inside, but to follow that with decisive, intentional, Christ-like action.