

Compassion in Action

Good morning Church,

#1 & #2

Why are you here this morning?

Who's Church is this?

Let's **pray** that He fills our hearts with this truth and that our hearts are right to have the Holy Spirit speak to us this morning and to be able to hear what He says and not what I say and to fill us with an urgency and with compassion to share the name of Jesus with everyone that we meet.

Who brought their bibles today?

Please turn with me to Matthew 9:35-38

³⁵ Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness.

³⁶ Seeing the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then He *said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. ³⁸ Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

Church where is your heart this morning? While I was preparing the sermon this week God really tugged on my heart. The Holy Spirit convicted me like He never has before.

I struggle with how to talk to you this morning because I want you to hear the passion in this message and I want all of us to be convicted because what we're about to talk and read about is of the utmost importance, but **I need your blessing** to talk about some hard things and some crucial things.

I can give you the tickle your ears version of what God talked to me about this week or I can give you the real version of what God talked to me about this week.

So which version do you want? It's going to take trust and require us to take a hard look at ourselves.

I'm glad you're here this morning and it's good to see all of you **no matter what your reason** for being here is whether it's for the right reason to worship God or whether it's for a different reason because if it's for a different reason. Then this is exactly where you need to be.

If you are a **believer then praise God that you are here**, if you are a **non believer** then praise God that you are here. If you don't know where you stand but you're **looking for family** then praise God that you're here **because NOW you have family**. if you **need time** then we as a family **are patient**. if you **need counsel** then we will make time to **talk**. if you **need spiritually fed** you're in the **right place**. if you need **physically fed** then you are in the **right place**. no matter where you stand in your belief **praise God that you are here**. **Here you will be accepted**, here you will be **loved** And if we fall short in any of this please come see anybody in leadership and we will promptly and effectively Love on you and connect you with others of the same heart.

Well with that you can kind of tell how this sermon is going to go. Let's get into the word now we're going to start in verse 35.

³⁵ Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness.

Jesus was preaching teaching and healing and it seems like our mind goes to that He was preaching teaching and healing to the less fortunate and the downtrodden but what this shows is that He had compassion for all.

Cities like Jerusalem or Capernaum were big populated areas and there were different classes of people in those cities both rich and poor, People with influence and people in bondage. He also went to villages that were likely small and isolated.

Jesus did not just wander, everywhere He went Was intentional. Every city, every village, and even every road and path that He walked had purpose.

He wasn't afraid, he wanted to teach everyone about the good news of the gospel and about God's desire to have relationship with All people.

Jesus was here, is here, and always will be here for all people no matter what their walk in life is.

So many times it seems like We think that we don't have to talk to others about the gospel because we feel like we live in a place that is Primarily Christian.

However...

I found some interesting information this week that I want to share with you.

- 62% of all adults in Sandpoint are believers. that means that 38% of all adults in Sandpoint are non believers. That equals roughly 4 out of 10 people that you cross paths with in town don't have Jesus in their lives.
- 58% of all adults in Coeur d'Alene are believers. That means that 42% of all adults in Coeur d'Alene are non believers that is more than 4 out of 10 people that don't have Jesus in their lives.
- Only 51% of adults that live in Spokane WA are believers. That means 49% are unbelievers. That's close to half of everyone that you cross paths with doesn't have Jesus.
- Statewide and countrywide roughly 62% are believers
- Let me break this down for you. In the USA roughly 16 million people are agnostic, and nearly 13 million are atheist.
- Worldwide with a population of 8.3 billion people 5.7 billion of those people don't have Jesus. Only 32% are Christian.

You know what this reminds me of in scripture. When Jesus was speaking to the disciples about the end of the age. He said...

Matthew 24:40-41

⁴⁰At that time there will be two *men* in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two *women* will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.

So what does that mean the scripture says that one will be taken to heaven and one will not, but out of the 5.7 billion people that we just talked about as of right now they will be the one that is left and that's horrible and that's sad.

But what I think is even worse is how they're living. They're living without hope, without true joy, and without knowing what true love is. I can't imagine going through life and all of the hardships and all of the sadness and all of the things that destroy without Jesus.

I miss my family and friends that have went to be with Jesus I can hardly wait to see them and to hug them again. But what about those who are lost and when they lose someone and they're still blind that they have no hope of ever seeing their loved ones again. And even worse the feeling of finality when they die.

I can't imagine what it would be like to think that all that God has created including myself was an accident. I can't imagine not having him to pour my heart out to. I feel lonely, and uneasy, and almost Anxious if I don't even get to talk to him for even for a little while. He is my father, and my friend. He is the one that I get the best advice from that when I don't feel comfortable showing my emotions to anybody else I can with Him. He is my guide, my constant, my ROCK.

Who in here feels what I'm saying right now?

³⁶ Seeing the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast, like sheep without a shepherd.

The definition of compassion in the Webster's dictionary defines it as such, a sympathetic consciousness of others distress together with the desire to alleviate it.

It combines 2 core elements

1. Awareness: recognizing and understanding another person's suffering
2. in action: a strong Benevolent urge to help ease their pain, or improve their situation.

Have you ever noticed how Jesus every time is said to have compassion that it's never a noun, it's never still.

Compassion is something that requires action. He's always actively helping through the compassion that He shows

He heals the sick , He feeds the hungry , He teaches, He touches, He restores
He comforts.

Psalm 103:13

Just as a father has **compassion** on *his* children,
So the Lord has **compassion** on those who fear Him.

--Billy please use one slide for all of the verses on this page-----

Luke 7:13

When the Lord saw her, He felt **compassion** for her and said to her, “Do not go on weeping.”

Matthew 14:14

When He came ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt **compassion** for them and healed their sick.

Matthew 15:32

Now Jesus called His disciples to Him and said, “I feel **compassion** for the people, because they have remained with Me now for three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way.”

Matthew 20:34

Moved with **compassion**, Jesus touched their eyes; and immediately they regained their sight and followed Him.

Mark 1:41

Moved with **compassion**, *Jesus* reached out with His hand and touched him, and *said to him, “I am willing; be cleansed.”

I could go on for a lot longer with scripture on how the Father and the Son not only show compassion but That Their character encompasses compassion.

Why in this scripture did Jesus have compassion why did He feel compassion because the people were distressed and downcast.

Does it seem more than ever as you watch the news or read the newspaper that more and more people are distressed and downcast. Every time I go to the grocery store or the gas station I am distressed and downcast. 😊

That's not the type of distressed and downcast that Jesus saw. He saw people that were exhausted, that were abused. He saw people that were discarded and helpless. They didn't have a shepherd they had no protection. The religious leaders at that time knew scripture but loved power.

The people heard stories of a time that God was actively involved with Isreal before 400 years of silence do to Israels repeated rejection of God's prophets. This ended with John the Baptist and sending His Son. It says in

Matthew chapter 23:4

They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger.

They were oppressed and felt alone.

They were sheep without a shepherd.

Psalm 95:7a. says

For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand...

We have sheep on our farm. How many people have sheep in this congregation?

I almost feel bad for people that have sheep and you know what I mean if you have them. They are sweet and gentle for the most part but sometimes I feel like their intelligence is comparable to a rock.

I don't think that's the comparison that God is making when he says that we are sheep. At least not for all of us. 😊

Here's the thing about sheep they need a shepherd they don't have any defense they're not fast they don't have sharp teeth they're not camouflaged they can't fight. They have to have a protector and the guide they need a shepherd.

Sheep wander, if a sheep gets out of the fence a lot of times they put their head down and I don't even think they realize it but they can walk miles before they even look up.

Have you ever noticed that we as humans can wander that our minds can wander, that our actions can wander, and that our intentions can wander.

Being in God's word and praying to our Father and our Shepherd to lead and guide us to not be wanderers.

³⁷Then He *said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

5.7 billion people. Yes I would say the harvest is plentiful but when He says workers are few what does that mean?

Evangelism is wonderful and needed we all need to talk about Jesus. We all need to talk about who He is, how wonderful He is, how good He is, and how compassionate He is. I pray to be able to see people in the way that He wants me to with compassion and that He gives me a heart of urgency to take action in whatever form that He leads me to. I want to be active.

So many of us have excuses and some of them are valid. God gave us all certain gifts every single Christian has been given a gift.

Maybe your gift isn't extremely strong verbal communication maybe your gift is serving and through serving you can still speak to the heart of people. Maybe your gift is giving and giving can take so many forms in giving your time, teaching, hope, love, money, and experience. Maybe your gift is a behind the scenes gift, but you have to do something. you have to do something to bring the gospel forward you can pray you can plead with God to show you what you can do.

How long ago was it that someone talked to you about Jesus? Are you thankful for that person? How did your life change because that person had the courage and the willingness and the compassion to talk to you? Then why do we hesitate to do that for somebody else

Who in here believes that the end times are here? Every day it seems that prophecy is being fulfilled. We need to pray that God fills our hearts and our spirit with an undeniable sense of urgency.

Is it bad to want Jesus to come back and take us home? No I want to see Jesus so much that I dream about it that I think about it constantly. I want to hug his neck, I want to be held by him, I want to sing to him, I want to fall down at his feet, I want to tell him how much I love him. That's not what this is about. It is fine to want that.

But I also don't see how we can call ourselves loving or for that matter, how we can call ourselves compassionate, or how we can even call ourselves Christians without at least telling someone anyone about how wonderful and amazing God is. We are supposed to be different. We should want people to come to Him almost as much as He does.

I want you to take a second and I'll be quiet while you think, I want you to think about that person that you know that doesn't know Jesus. It may be somebody that you love, it may be somebody that you don't even like but I want you to ask yourself how are you going to feel when you get to heaven when you're in the presence of Jesus and that person may not be there because you were afraid or because you were too busy or because you figured somebody else would talk to them. What is your answer going to be. It's not about us it's not about you. We are only on this earth for a short time it's about God's Kingdom.

He's given us all a testimony and he hasn't given us that testimony to hide or to keep quiet.

Also remember that it doesn't stop there because then comes the next thing that Jesus asks us to do and that's to make disciples. and to walk beside our brothers and sisters, to be helpers, to serve, and to lift up. To teach, and to bring to church.

Let me ask you a hard question How would you feel walking into this church for the first time right now? Or what if you've never even been to church and this is your first impression Of what a church is?

I'll tell you one thing for sure and that is that the Holy Spirit is in this place, that God is here. That love is abounding here. That there are good people here.

However I can also tell you That right now spiritual warfare is running rampant inside this building. I can tell you that it's taking the form of gossip and even hatred.

Let me ask you this, just like I ask you almost every week why are you here?

I can tell you why we should be here. We should be here to worship God, we should be here to study and learn His word, we should be here to lift up our brothers and sisters, we should be here to disciple others, we should be here for fellowship. This is not about ourselves this is not a place for drama this is not a place for gossip, this a house for God.

If we have an issue with a brother or sister then that issue should be brought to that brother or sister because that is what the Bible tells us to do.

It's not always easy to be obedient, it's not always easy to go through a storm, church can be messy and hard. The problem lies in if you are making it messy and hard. It's not about who's side you are on. You should be on God's side. Only if He tells you to leave then you should leave.

But how do you know what He is telling you? Pray for wisdom, pray for discernment, and run everything through the filter of love, and seek out His character.

People should feel comfortable coming to this church or any church for that matter because after you tell them about Jesus they need to have a place to come learn about Jesus. They need to feel love, experience love first hand, and learn how to love the way that Jesus instructed us to love. This should be a safe place for anyone no matter what their walk or lack thereof is.

James 1:2-4

²Consider it all joy, my brothers *and sisters*, when you encounter various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Sometimes Storms last a while, and sometimes the waves are rough. Sometimes we need to pray for endurance.

Something that the Holy Spirit talked to me about this week was the JOY part of verse 1. I was reminded that it is an honor and a privilege to serve God no matter what is going on around me. For all of the things He has done for me and even if times are difficult,

I am to be grateful to be part of a family that stands together through it all, a family that puts God 1st, and a family that weathers the hard times with love and understanding.

38 Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.”

The Greek word for plead is deethete (deh-AY-thay-the) Which means to make an urgent appeal, to ask because of the great need, to earnestly request.

Jesus isn't softly asking us to plead with the Lord. He is commanding us to plead with the Lord Of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest.

When I read this passage I just read it through but then after prayer and study I can almost hear Jesus' voice as he told His disciples this. I can hear it with compassion and with urgency so the next time you read this set of verses hear His voice and His heart.

I'm going to close with a story and some scripture.

Debbie and I had neighbors that have since moved out. And one day they came to our house frantically knocking on our door. Their two year old boy somehow went out their front door when they weren't looking. I don't know that I will ever forget the looks on their faces with the worry and the extreme urgency to find their son. We have a pond at the end of our Rd. And we have a lot of potentially dangerous things For a 2 year old on our land like barbed wire, Hotwire, traffic, wild animals, and livestock. This story has a happy ending they found their son. However they were frantic and wanting nothing more then to bring their son home.

There are lots of dangers in the world, there are lots of pitfalls, and a lot of Us are downcast and distressed and Jesus wants nothing more than for us to come home that's where his urgency is and that's where our urgency should be. And we should be praying and pleading with the Lord of the harvest to bring more workers for our brothers and sisters to come home with us.

Isaiah 6:8

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

PRAY