

Summer School Week 1

Title – Compassion

Prayer

Purpose/Review

In case you weren't here last week... we have entered the season of Summer School

PERSONAL STORY-

Last week I had mentioned that during my Junior year of High School I needed to attend Summer School and retake English

Again... as I mentioned the one thing that I learned was this
To never fail another subject and have to attend Summer School again...

However... what I was surprised to learn was...

That there were students who chose to go to Summer School...

They took advantage of the scheduling so that they could advance their curriculum
So that they would be better prepared for college

So what is Summer School...?

Summer School – (Search Engine)

Focused Curriculum:

Students typically concentrate on one or two subjects
Rather than multiple classes simultaneously.

Atmosphere:

While still academically rigorous, summer school often includes hands-on workshops
Social activities, and excursions, making it less rigid and more engaging than traditional
classroom settings.

NOTE-

Summer programs offer smaller class sizes with personalized attention
This fosters better teacher-student relationships

Participation demonstrates dedication and ambition

It helps students build a competitive edge through specialized learning experiences

And at this point you might be asking... why would we need Summer School...?

QUESTION-

What is the reason that we attend church...?

ANSWER- Open Your Bibles to Ephesians 4:12

Ephesians 4

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ

QUESTION-

Can you describe what the early church service looked like...?

ANSWER- Open Your Bibles to Acts 2:42

Acts 2

42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

NOTE-

The idea is that this was ongoing, occurring over and over, again and again.

What was the target" at which their "devotion" aimed?

It wasn't praise and worship songs

It was receiving the pure milk of the Word of God... The Apostles' teachings

Speaking about Acts 2:42....

This passage sees the pattern which seems to have become normative for Christianity. People heard and received the word of God; then they united in the fellowship of the church, continued in the apostles' doctrine, remained in fellowship with the brethren, and frequently observed the Lord's Supper and prayer as a part of responsible church life... **W.A. Criswell**

The apostles brought forth the pure milk of God's word...

And the church observed of the Lord's Supper frequently

Let us begin by doing the same...

Song Service and Communion

INTRODUCTION

SLIDE – Summer School

This morning... our first Summer School Subject... is about Compassion

Sermon Title - Compassion

What is Compassion...?

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

Compassion - A suffering with another; painful sympathy; a sensation of sorrow excited by the distress or misfortunes of another; pity

So with that definition in mind let us turn to this morning's reading...

Reading

Matthew 9

35 Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.36 Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

Doctrinal

Matthew 9

35 Jesus was going through all the cities and villages

NOTE-

No place was off limits... Jesus went throughout the land visiting all the cities

And all of those little villages nestled in the hill country... No area was forgotten

QUESTION

And why did Jesus make these journeys...? Hint- 2 reasons

ANSWER

He made those journeys to **teach in the synagogues**

And **to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom**

Don't read through this too quickly...

QUESTION

Who would be in attendance in the synagogues...?

ANSWER

The common people to local elites

The officials, and religious leaders

Sometimes... members of the Sanhedrin.

Jesus made those journeys to teach in the synagogues
And to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom

Not only did He preach about the Kingdom of God to the people...

He went out and lived it...

Healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

He came to heal and He came to bring the Good News...

QUESTION-

Was there any village or city that He felt were unworthy of His time?

ANSWER-

No... He went through all the cities and villages

QUESTION-

Did Jesus turn away any individual who came to Him for healing?

ANSWER-

No... He healed every kind of disease and every kind of sickness

Then Matthew tells us something very important about the character of Jesus...

Matthew 9

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

This is the verse for the foundation of our lesson this morning...

What we are observing here is the Compassion of Christ...

1 Corinthians 11

1 Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

NIV... Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

How...?

Application

Compassion of Christ

1. Seeing the People

The King James does a better job in describing this moment within our reading...

Matthew 9 KJV

36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them

NOTE-

Not just that He had compassion or that He felt compassion

He was moved with compassion

NOTE-

As He traveled throughout the land

Looking into the eyes of everyone that He came into contact with

He was moved with compassion

Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ...

You and I need to see with the eyes of Christ...

1 Samuel 16

7 But the Lord said to Samuel, Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

So let's go a little exercise... Are you moved with compassion...

SLIDES-

Lost Dog

Are you moved... how...?

Lost Child

Are you moved... how...?

Now... Look at our last slide

Blind Onlookers

What does this picture say to you...?

NOTE-

We have to look beyond what we see
Through the eyes of God

Each and every individual is made in the image of God
And every individual is loved equally by God

STORY-

Some of you have heard this story before... so let me bore you with it again

When my daughter was about 9-10 we met my parents at the zoo in Asheboro, NC
They have a very large zoo there with animals from all over the world

At lunch time I went into the cafeteria to get a table and to begin to order lunch
My parents were in the gift shop and would meet us later

I set my daughter down at a table... to hold the table... as it was getting very busy
I went up to order our drinks.

Upon returning I saw that a man had taken his family and sat at our table
My daughter was holding back the tears

We found another table but later we went out into the courtyard
And it was mobbed... hundreds... of people

God spoke to me there... I love each and ever person just as I love you

1 Corinthians 11

1 Be imitators of Me, just as I also am of Christ

We need to have the eyes of Christ and care for all we see...

Perhaps the worst thing is not that we don't win souls; perhaps the worst thing is not that we don't share; the worst thing is that we don't even care. Now I know that you have an intellectual feeling about it. But do you have a tender and a sympathetic heart...

Adrian Rogers

Jesus was moved with compassion because the people were distressed...

Compassion of Christ

1. Seeing the People

2. The People were Distressed

NOTE-

The people that Jesus saw were living under Roman occupation
They were heavily taxed... many living in complete poverty

The Jewish leaders were not any better...

Mark 12

38 In His teaching He was saying: Beware of the scribes who like to walk around in long robes...40 who devour widows' houses, and for appearance's sake offer long prayers; these will receive greater condemnation.

EXAMPLE-

In ancient times widows held little or no power in the courts. It was not uncommon for a husband to appoint in his will a Jewish legal expert—a scribe or Pharisee—to be the executor of his widow’s estate. Essentially, this gave the executor authority to oversee the widow’s finances and assets. It would not be hard for a corrupt lawyer to find legal ways to trick a widow out of her house and other property—and this is precisely what the religious leaders were doing.

Not only were the people distressed... they were lost...

Compassion of Christ

1. Seeing the People
2. The People were Distressed
- 3. The People were Lost**

Matthew 9

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

What did Jesus mean that they dispirited people had no shepherd...

They were burdened by the religious leaders

The Pharisees and Sadducees failed to provide genuine spiritual leadership

God warned the religious leaders through Ezekiel...

Ezekiel 34

2 Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel. Prophesy and say to those shepherds, ‘Thus says the Lord God, Woe, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flock?’

God had warned the false shepherds and promised to be their True Shepherd

Jesus fulfilled that promise

John 10

11 I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

**The Good Shepherd is willingly to sacrifice Himself
For the safety and salvation of the sheep.**

NOTE-

Jesus went to all of the cities and to all of the villages
Healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness
And as He was doing that... He was also proclaiming the Good News

Listen to what Matthew tells us that Jesus did...

Matthew 9

37 Then He said to His disciples, The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. 38
Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.

NOTE-

In the Old Testament the metaphor of the harvest describes
God's gathering of His people

The harvest represents a time of abundance and fulfillment
Spiritually, it signifies the readiness of people to receive the Gospel

Let me close with one last image

SLIDE-

The Homeless and the Secure

Which of the two groups move you with compassion...?

Jesus is telling us that there is a vast number of people
Who are prepared to hear and accept the message of the Kingdom

Jesus is telling us that there is an urgency and opportunity
For the ongoing mission of the Church

Let us be faithful to our calling

And let us tell the world about the Compassion of Christ

CLOSE