

The Compassion of Christ Mt. 14:13-21

Introduction:

Jesus always demonstrated great compassion towards man. Compassion literally means “to feel sympathy, to pity” (Strong’s). It is also important to note that it is always accompanied with action. We do not just feel sorry for someone, but we also try to help them when necessary.

I. To really understand the compassion that Jesus had for the multitude, notice the setting of this great story.

- A. Refer back to Mt. 14:1-12.
 - 1. John the baptizer has just been killed because of his stand for God.
 - 2. John and Jesus had a very special relationship.
 - a. Remember that John was the forerunner of Christ.
 - 1) Mt. 3:3 - For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight.' "
 - b. He was the one who baptized Jesus in Mt. 3:13-17.
 - c. John was also a blood relative of Christ.
 - 3. Jesus is very sorrowful because of the death of John.
 - 4. Because of this sorrow, Jesus departs “to a deserted place by Himself.”
- B. There is also another side that helps to add to the setting to this story.
 - 1. These people wanted to be with Jesus so bad that “they followed Him on foot” to find Him (14:13).
 - 2. They knew who Jesus was and what He could do for them.
 - 3. Even though Jesus wanted to be alone at the time, He did not refuse the people from following Him.

II. Jesus showed great compassion for the people by meeting their immediate needs.

- A. Jesus met two basic needs of the people that day.
 - 1. Jesus healed their sick (14:14).
 - 2. Jesus fed about 5,000 men, not counting women and children (14:21).
 - 3. Jesus gave the people what they needed at the time.
- B. Jesus always had compassion on people.
 - 1. Mt. 9:36 – Jesus had compassion on the multitude when they were “like sheep having no shepherd.”
 - 2. Mt. 15:32 – Jesus had compassion on the people when he fed the 4,000.
 - 3. Mt. 20:34 – Jesus had compassion on two blind men when He healed gave them their sight.
 - 4. Mk. 1:41 – Jesus had compassion on a leper when He healed him.
 - 5. Mk. 5:19 – When Jesus removed the demons from Legion, Jesus told him to go and tell his friends about the compassion that Jesus had for him.
 - 6. Lk. 7:13 – Jesus had compassion on the widow of Nain when He raised her son from the dead.

7. In each of these cases, Jesus met the immediate needs of the people; His compassion required action.
- C. We, today, also are to have compassion on others.
1. This means that we will help others meet the basic needs of life whenever necessary.
 2. **Pr. 3:27-28** - Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so. {28} Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give it," when you have it with you.
 3. **Gal. 6:9-10** - And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. {10} Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.
 4. **Rom. 12:13** - distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.
 5. Certainly this does not mean that we give a handout to anyone who asks, but we do help those who are in true need.

III. It is important to note that Jesus was doing something for the people that they could not do themselves.

- A. Remember what Jesus had done for them.
 1. Jesus had healed their sick and given them food in the deserted place.
 2. The people could not have done either of these without Jesus.
- B. Today, Jesus also gives us something which we cannot provide for ourselves.
 1. Jesus today provides salvation for us.
 2. Salvation is something that we cannot provide for ourselves.
 3. **Rom. 5:6-8** - For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. {7} For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. {8} But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Conclusion:

Do we have compassion on our fellow man in the way that Jesus did? Are we willing to help them whenever we can? Christ had great compassion on us, so we should have that same kind of compassion for others.