

## The Story of Jesus

### Part 15: How can I help the world?

Mark 6:30-44 - [watch online](#)

#### **SUMMARY:**

You want to help the world. You want to ease the pain and hurt around you. But is our good really making any difference? The Story of Jesus shows us how to go beyond good intentions and make a real difference in the world.

#### **MAIN POINTS:**

If we're paying attention, the real world can be overwhelming and exhausting.

We can be the change Jesus invites us to be.

Our hearts long for what Jesus offers.

Compassion is at the core of who Jesus is.

Feeling compassion without offering real comfort is pointless pity.

In Jesus' compassion he invites his followers to be the good the world needs.

Jesus doesn't need much from us to do something significant through us.

Jesus' power and compassion go hand in hand.

Jesus chooses to display his power and compassion through his followers.

Jesus leads us to the good he needs us to be.

Jesus invites us to heal the world through his powerful compassion.

**INVITATION:** Join Jesus in the work he's prepared for you.

This week, once a day read Ephesians 2:10.

Ask Jesus, "What do you want me to do?"

Take the step to trust him with what you have.

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What stood out, bothered, confused, or inspired you in this week's message?
2. Jon said, "Jesus' power and compassion go hand in hand."
  - a. Explain what you think he meant.
  - b. How could this change our responses and reactions to the hurt we see in the world?
3. Read Ephesians 2:8-10. What words or ideas catch your attention?
4. What might change in your day to day life if you ask Jesus every morning, "What do you want me to do?"
5. How can your group pray with you this week?

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#### **TRANSCRIPT:**

**IN:** I know something about you... You're a great person

- You want to make the world a better place.
- And you do your best to be a good/moral person and help others...

But in the big picture... is our goodness making any real difference? How do we know what we think is "good" actually aligns w/ what could be "best?"

We can find the answers when we look at the story of Jesus... so let's talk about it... together.

**WE:** We want to do what Gandhi said and be the change we wish to see in the world... but there's so much that needs to be changed.

**If we're paying attention, the real world can be overwhelming and exhausting**

B/c sometimes... especially times like right now... it just seems there's too much darkness... too much anger, hate, evil, hurt for one person, or even a group of people, to be able to make any difference.

And if we do anything there's just another thing and another and another... like bailing out a boat w/ a huge hole in the bottom

We want to be compassionate... help in some way...

But as we see the hurt in the world ... 1 of 3 things usually happens...

- Wear ourselves out trying to stay informed and fix as many problems as possible
- Become jaded and apathetic... maybe offer thoughts and prayers positive energy but then we just move on.
- Become bitter and angry and anxious... find people/systems/groups to blame for the problems... get worked up anytime anything happens, argue w/ anyone who disagrees w/ your solution or anger.

I don't want to be any of those. And I know you don't either. So what do we do?

Well there is another option... **We can be the change Jesus invites us to be.**

We can allow Jesus' compassion to guide us to act where we are truly needed... and let him multiply what little we feel we have to offer...

Stick around and Let's look at the story of Jesus and I'll show you...

**GOD:** Story so far... Jesus sent out disciples to preach, heal, and cast out demons.

Meanwhile Mark gives us an intriguing side story of the king thinking Jesus is John the Baptist resurrected... B/c the king executed John as a gift to his step daughter... pretty twisted story.

Then Mark brings us back to the story of the disciples...

They come back all excited about their trip

- Mostly teenagers... saw God take care of them, healed the sick, cast out demons,

And they've really made some ripples... people are flocking to the teacher they had been telling them about.

So imagine the people's excitement...

- Under the thumb of Rome and a king that killed their popular prophet

- Any resistance is immediately and unrelentingly crushed
- Unseen/no voice
- Been told their whole life that they must conform to religious rules in order to please this distant deity who has been silent for 100's of years.
- Under the constant threat of sickness, disease, famine, darkness

And now there is a young teacher unlike anyone they've ever seen/heard

- Teaches w/ authority... isn't afraid of and doesn't conform to religious leaders/authorities.
- He says he is bringing the true kingdom of God
- They are seen and known and loved not by a distant deity but a perfect and caring heavenly Father.
- They have worth and value
- He and his disciples heal their diseases, free them from the power of darkness...

And they flock to him b/c... Our hearts long for what Jesus offers.

- A world where enemies are forgiven
- Revenge is left to God
- Fear and anxiety are replaced by trust and hope
- Anger is replaced w/ love, joy, and peace
- Loneliness is replaced w/ being known and loved by God himself.

So of course they are swarming to him... so much so Jesus and the boys don't even have time to eat...

So Jesus tries to get these guys some rest and maybe get their heads straight.

- Says, "Lets get in the boat and go away for a bit."

But apparently they don't go out far enough and as they are rowing, people start recognizing them...

- "Hey that's Andrew who healed my leprosy"
- "That's Peter who told me that God loves me"
- "That must be the Jesus they were telling us about"

People start running to catch up w/ Jesus and the disciples and a huge crowd gathers where they are going to land.

How would you feel if you were disciples? Just got back from mission... tired... physically, mentally, spiritually

- "Come on, just give us a day off!"

How does Jesus react? Like Jesus.

### **V. 34** Compassion is at the core of who Jesus is.

He has compassion on them. A deep from the heart empathetic compassion.

- When your kid is actually hurting/heartbroken (Benji sad)

This compassion, something that seems missing from so much of our world, and sadly so many of our churches... constantly radiates from Jesus.

Jesus sees this crowd, and sees that they are like sheep w/o a shepherd.

Wandering aimlessly... don't know who to turn to, what to do...

- Their king doesn't care about them
- Their religious leaders weigh them down w/ heavy religious burdens
- They are oppressed by fear and darkness...

And he has compassion on them... and changes his plans and teaches them the truth of the KoG

- God isn't mad at them... they don't have to impress him... get on his good side
- He loves them, he already accepts them, he is searching them out,
- He has come to them to bring them true life

And they sit and listen and listen and listen...

Disciples maybe thinking... "Ok, this was supposed to be our rest time. Sure, Jesus, give them a bit of teaching but then let's stick to the plan and get away."

But Jesus just keeps going on and on and no one's leaving... and it's getting late

And then someone starts getting hungry (Probably Peter),

**V. 35-36** Very practical. Sensible. Maybe veiled as compassionate... But Jesus isn't in a practical/sensible mood.

He has an even more important lesson to teach his disciples...

Feeling compassion w/o offering real comfort is pointless pity.

Jesus- "Come on boys, we can do better than sending them away..."

**V. 37a** (But Jesus said, "you feed them.")

In Jesus' compassion he invites his followers to be the good the world needs.

Jesus- "Good job for seeing their needs. But instead of just feeling sorry for them and hoping they find something to eat... you feed them."

But these disciples are very practical people... and they aren't in the mood for one of Jesus' parable games right now... you can hear it in their response...

**V. 37b** "Seriously? Ok funny joke, Jesus... But come on now, they need to get moving before it gets dark."

"We don't have enough to make a dent in what all these people need."

Ever feel that way? We see the need. We feel bad. But what can we really do anyway? We could barely make a dent to satisfy the true need.

- So we give up, ignore, move on, send them on their way hoping they figure something out.

- We want to help but, man, I got my own stuff going on...
- Gotta be practical

The disciples are just being practical right? Well Jesus probably sighs... maybe gives a slight grin and asks... "What do you have?"

Just as he does w/ us... when we see needs and don't know what to do... he turns to us and asks "What do you have?"

**V. 38**- Not much. Maybe not for a normal teacher... but Jesus isn't very normal.

And we think well, Jesus I've got some talents, some resources, some experience, some time... But what is it compared to how much is needed?

Jesus doesn't need much from us to do something significant through us.

**V. 39-44** "Green grass"- Eyewitness.

Everyone is fed and happy... doesn't even say if crowd was aware of what happened... but disciples definitely were.

And the writer, Mark, forces us again to ask the question he's been trying to get us to answer... Who is this man?

- Not only does he present God unlike anyone ever had
- Not only can he heal and cast out demons
- Not only can he raise the dead and calm storms
- He can create life-giving food out of thin air.

Maybe he really is who he says he is! Maybe he really is God come to earth to reveal his kingdom on earth now.

Only miracle that is recorded in all four accounts of Jesus' life... must have made a huge impression.

I think b/c it highlights just how powerful and how compassionate Jesus really is...

Jesus' power and compassion go hand in hand.

Think about it... Jesus has proven he has the power to do whatever he wants... and these people weren't starving to death. It had only been a day... but b/c of his great compassion he used his power to give them way more than they needed

And what's interesting... he was powerful enough just to make the food appear... but he chose to use the disciples.

- Chose to use what they brought him,
- Chose to have them organize the people
- Chose to have them hand out the food to the crowd
- Chose to amaze them w/ something they'd never target... a basket leftover for each of them

Jesus chooses to display his power and compassion through his followers.

## TRANSITION:

So as we look at the world and the hurt and pain and loneliness and sadness and even evil around us... and we see the needs... we want to help... but we don't even know where to start...

Jesus says, "You feed them. YOU feed THEM"

And this is where things get interesting... and so unlike anything else out there...

See we can try really hard to be the good we wish to see in the world... that's amazing and admirable...

But we can't fix everything in the world... and if we let ourselves, we can wear ourselves out randomly running from one thing we feel we need to fix to another...

- We can do as much good as we can and may end up just spinning our tires... b/c that's not the need Jesus has for us to meet.

But when we are connected to Jesus, when we are following him, when we are asking and listening, he will point us to where he needs us to be.

Jesus says, "YOU feed THEM" He directs us to the needs he needs US to meet

- There definitely millions of hungry people in the world at the time who could've used a fish sandwich

Jesus didn't tell the disciples to feed every person in the country... he said feed THEM, take care of the need I have directed you to. The need I have put in front of you... that I've put on your heart.

Jesus leads us to the good he needs us to be.

- The point of the miracle wasn't just easing temporary hunger
- The point was what it pointed to... HIM. his power and compassion at work through his followers.
- It's why he made us. It's why he came to save and remake us... **Eph 2:10**
- He does the saving but he chooses to us in the process.

And we say- "Jesus, how's that even possible... I don't have much. I have my own problems and people to take care of."

He smiles and says, "Whatcha got? Give it to me and I'll multiply it. I'll use the little you have to make a huge difference."

If we are simply the good we wish to see in the world... then one person is impacted here and one there... great things... BUT...

When we give what little we have to Jesus it is multiplied sometimes out of thin air...

Honestly it's so much more powerful than simple random acts of kindness (those aren't worthless)

But when we partner with Jesus, when we follow him, he leads us not to one random act here and there but a life of witnessing and being involved in the miracle of lives being changed...

In his power and compassion he uses what little we have to make a huge difference... we might not always see it but the ripples start working their way out.

How do you think 11 poor Jewish peasants created a movement that brought about the 1st hospitals and orphanages?

- Laid the groundwork for the idea of universal human rights, inspired the abolitionists
- Jesus Followers listened to Jesus, gave him what little they had, and did the good he invited them to do.

Listen... if Jesus is who he said he is and can do what he said he can do... then he knows what will cause the greatest good... and if we trust his power and his compassion he will lead us to not just doing good here and there but creating a multiplying chainreaction of good.

**YOU:** You are a good person and you want good to come from your short time here on earth.

The best, most effective way to do that is through and w/ the one who is the most compassionate and most powerful being not just in the universe but who created the universe...

- Jesus
- You are invited to join him by doing what he leads you to do... what he created you to do

Whoever you are... you are invited to discover a life of not just being good... but being used to multiply good.

So to do that first.. Accept Jesus' invitation to follow him

- Take the time you need
- Ask questions... explore
- If you want to be more than a good person... if you want to be effectively good this is the best route.

And then when you see the needs on the news, on SM, in your life ask a simple question...

**Join Jesus in the work he's prepared for you.**

**This week, once a day read Ephesians 2:10**

**Ask Jesus, "What do you want me to do?"**

And listen... what does he put on your heart? What ideas come to your mind?

And then **take the step to trust him w/ what you have.**

- Maybe it is praying... more powerful than we think
- Maybe it is giving money
- Maybe it's donating
- Maybe it's raising awareness
- MAYbe it;s reaching out to someone in pain/need/just caring can make a huge difference.
- Maybe it's getting our hands dirty and physically helping

**WE:** There is so much pain and anger in the world... it can seem overwhelmingly hopeless...

And we can either become apathetic, fearful, angry, or wear ourselves out trying to do good but not knowing if it'll actually do anything...

Or we can trust that Jesus is who he said he is and will do what he said he will do... and trust him to lead us where we are needed -- where HE needs US-- and to multiply the little we have to do unimaginable good.

Imagine a world where everyone who calls themselves a JF was asking Jesus daily...

- What are you doing here?
- How can I join you?
- And then listened and did it?

It would completely change the world... it would change your life, and your kids life, and the lives of those around you.

- Maybe not right away but the ripples would grow and grow

It's not just wishful thinking... It's why Jesus came and showed us his true power and compassion.

Jesus invites us to heal the world through his powerful compassion.

So... what do you have?