

ENGAGE THE WORLD

— Like Jesus —



Modern society glories in transgression, and transgression is exhilarating.

Carl Trueman in The Desecration of Man

Romans 7:5, 8

When we were in the flesh, the sinful passions aroused through the law were working in us to bear fruit for death... Sin, seizing an opportunity through the command-ment, produced in me coveting of every kind.

Jesus engaged people with compassion, by

- **Perceiving their need**
- **Pivoting His plans**
- **Proclaiming the truth**

Matthew 9:32-34

Just as they were going out, a demon-possessed man who was unable to speak was brought to him. ³³ When the demon had been driven out, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowds were amazed, saying, “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel!”

³⁴ But the Pharisees said, “He drives out demons by the ruler of the demons.”

Matthew 9:35-38

Jesus continued going around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness.³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd.³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few.³⁸ Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest.”

Jesus compares the crowd to a flock of sheep that has suffered attack from a predator.

Daniel Doriani

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

But if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case, the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

To feel correctly for people, you must think correctly about them. This means rejecting thoughts that diminish others, dismiss others, or degrade them, and putting on thoughts that correspond to their relationship with God. If they are unbelievers, you should think about the fact that they are currently enemies of God and, apart from repentance, will someday experience the wrath of God. Think about the consequences of their sin!

Sin makes life here on earth worse, but more than that, the sin of those whom you have little or no compassion toward is dragging them toward an eternal hell. How can you not feel for someone who is facing that?

Joshua Mack

Matthew 23:13

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. For you don’t go in, and you don’t allow those entering to go in.”

Matthew 23:4

They tie up heavy loads that are hard to carry and put them on people’s shoulders, but they themselves aren’t willing to lift a finger to move them.

Matthew 9:11

When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

Matthew 14:13a

When Jesus heard about it, he withdrew from there by boat to a remote place to be alone.

Matthew 14:13b

When the crowds heard this, they followed him on foot from the towns.

Matthew 14:14-16

When he went ashore, he saw a large crowd, had compassion on them, and healed their sick.

¹⁵ When evening came, the disciples approached him and said, “This place is deserted, and it is already late. Send the crowds away so that they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”

¹⁶ “They don’t need to go away,” Jesus told them. “You give them something to eat.”

John 6:26-30

“Truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate the loaves and were filled. ²⁷ Don’t work for the food that perishes but for the food that lasts for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set his seal of approval on him.”

²⁸ “What can we do to perform the works of God?” they asked...

29 Jesus replied, “This is the work of God—that you believe in the one he has sent.”

30 “What sign, then, are you going to do so that we may see and believe you?” they asked. “What are you going to perform?”

Compassion endeavors to perceive people's true needs, and even pivots from our own priorities to serve those in need. But that same compassion should also implore us to proclaim the truth.