

Summary

This sermon explores the theme of compassion as the defining characteristic of Jesus and a call for His followers to live it out in practical ways. Drawing from Mark chapter 8 and the feeding of the 4,000, Pastor Jason highlights how Jesus was moved in His gut (the Greek word "splagchna") by the needs of people around Him, including those considered outsiders or enemies. Compassion for Jesus was never just a feeling but always an action that moved from his heart through His hands to meet real needs. The sermon also connects individual acts of compassion to the broader Gospel story, noting that the same four actions (he took, he thanked, he broke, he gave) appear at the feeding of the 5,000, the feeding of the 4,000, and the Last Supper. This pattern reveals that every act of compassion points toward the ultimate act of compassion: the cross. Pastor Jason challenges us to say yes to compassion by practicing compassion pauses, offering what little they have (the seven loaves exercise), and stepping beyond their comfort zones to serve others, even those they might consider undeserving.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together today, we ask that you open our hearts and minds to what you want to speak to us. Remove any distractions, any pride, and any walls we have built around who deserves our love and care. Fill this room with your presence, and let your compassion flow freely among us. May we leave this time not just informed but truly transformed. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one small, unexpected act of kindness someone showed you that you still remember to this day?

Key Verses

- Mark 8:1-8
- Exodus 34:6
- Luke 6:36

- Matthew 9:36
- Mark 14:22

Questions

- The sermon describes compassion using the Greek word 'splanchna,' meaning a gut-level, physical response to someone else's need. Can you think of a time when you felt that kind of deep, visceral compassion for someone? What did you do with it?
- Pastor Jason points out that emotional empathy has decreased by 48% over the last two decades. What do you think are the biggest factors contributing to this decline in your own life or community?
- The disciples had just witnessed the feeding of the 5,000, yet they struggled to trust Jesus with the needs of the 4,000. Why do you think it is so easy to forget what God has already done when we face a new challenge?
- The feeding of the 4,000 took place in Gentile territory, among people the disciples likely considered outsiders. Who are the people in your life that you find it hardest to extend compassion toward, and why?
- Pastor Jason mentioned a fear that showing compassion to certain people might be seen as approving of their lifestyle or choices. Have you ever held back from showing love or care because of that fear? How did Jesus handle that tension?
- Micah Miller shared how a simple phrase, 'Dios te bendiga,' was all he had to offer a man who seemed dangerous and unreachable. What is your version of that small, simple offering that God might be calling you to give to someone this week?
- The sermon connects the four actions (he took, he thanked, he broke, he gave) across the feeding miracles and the Last Supper, showing that every act of compassion points to the cross. How does understanding the Gospel as the ultimate act of compassion change the way you think about serving others?
- Pastor Jason offers three practical steps: compassion pauses, the seven loaves exercise, and one act of compassion beyond your comfort zone. Which of these feels most challenging for you personally, and what would it look like to take that step this week?

Life Application

This week, set a daily alarm on your phone at a random time. When it goes off, pause wherever you are and ask God, 'Who around me needs compassion right now?' Then take one small action

in response, whether it is sending an encouraging message, paying for someone's coffee, sitting with someone who is lonely, or volunteering for a ministry that needs help. At the end of the week, reflect on what God showed you through those moments and how it changed your perspective on the people around you.

Key Takeaways

- Compassion is the primary emotion that marked Jesus' life and ministry. It was never just a feeling but always moved from his heart through his hands as a concrete action to meet real needs.
- Saying yes to compassion connects you to the very heart and nature of God, who described Himself first and foremost as compassionate (Exodus 34:6).
- Heart barriers, not just practical obstacles, are often what prevent us from extending compassion to those we consider outsiders, enemies, or undeserving.
- The four actions of Jesus (he took, he thanked, he broke, He gave) link every act of compassion back to the cross, meaning that when we show compassion, we are preaching the Gospel in a powerful and tangible way.
- Practical compassion does not require great resources. It requires availability. Offering what little we have, like seven loaves, is enough when placed in the hands of Jesus.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for this time together and for the reminder that compassion is not optional for those who follow you. It is the very heartbeat of who you are. Forgive us for the times we have drawn circles around who deserves our love and care. Remind us daily of the compassion you showed us when we were lost, hungry, and far from you. Give us the courage to cross dividing lines, to offer what little we have, and to trust you to multiply it for your glory. May the world see in us a reflection of the God who drew near when He could have walked away. Send us out from this place ready to be your hands and feet. In your compassionate and powerful name we pray, amen.