



“When the Spirit enables us to understand what Christ has done for us, the result is a life poured out in deeds of justice and compassion for the poor.”
— Timothy J. Keller, [Generous Justice: How God's Grace Makes Us Just](#).

FOCUS. Following Jesus means being stretched by his compassion for others but it also means being filled with his compassion for us.

FOLLOWING JESUS will stretch us with his compassion for others.

34 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd.

JESUS' compassion stretches us because it often feels like an interruption. Look at this moment out of context and it has a simplicity and beauty to it. But look at it in context and it's a little messier. They are going away to a quiet place to get REST.

Can you imagine how the disciples might have felt: hungry (v31), tired... REMEMBER Jesus with Jairus/ woman? Now its the disciples waiting

I love how INTERRUPTIBLE Jesus is. But I don't like being interrupted!

Being interrupted means surrendering my plans and expectations... control.

“The great thing, if one can, is to stop regarding all the unpleasant things as interruptions of one's 'own,' or 'real' life. The truth is of course that what one calls the interruptions are precisely one's real life -- the life God is sending one day by day.” — C.S. Lewis, [The Collected Works of C.S. Lewis](#).

JESUS' compassion stretches us when we don't feel like we have enough vs. 37 But Jesus answered, ‘YOU give them something to eat.’

JESUS' compassion stretches us when we don't feel like we have enough:

- Time
- Energy
- Resources
- Compassion
- Experience or Training

What is the LESSON Jesus is trying to impress upon his disciples and us?

Jesus simply asks... v38 “How many loaves do you have?” ... 5 loaves & 2 Fish.

If we just bring to God what we have and trust him to fill the gap... it will be enough.

5 Loaves—> 5,000 men (families)

1. We are not asked to give what we don't have.
2. But Sometimes we've got more than we realize!
3. Focus on how little we have can paralyze us from offering anything.

Give what you have in faith... asking God to multiply the gap. Release to Him.

Jesus models it... v41 He thanks his Father for what they have and looks to Him to fill the GAP.

Believing that we have to fill the GAP... We lose sight of Jesus and feel alone.

JESUS' assignments are perfectly designed to take us to this breaking point.

FOLLOWING JESUS fills us with his compassion for us.

Immediately Jesus makes the disciples cross the Sea of Galilee to Bethsaida

And a storm hits the disciples... AGAIN (2X)... but this time no Jesus.

v48 Jesus saw the disciples straining at the oars because the wind was against them.

Jesus waits until just before dawn... all night... 3-6am.

They are in the middle of the lake... there's no turning back.

And Jesus is no where in sight.

vs. 52 "for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened."

What didn't they understand?

Sometimes we begin to believe the lie that it's all up to us... we're on our own.

What do we sometimes fail to understand?

Jesus' compassion for others is also for us.

There is no assignment Jesus will send us into alone.

There is no challenge Jesus will give you bigger than you and HIM can face together.

What we have to bring to any assignment God gives us --will never be more than 5 loaves against the need of 5,000 families.

Jesus compassion for us is this... he allows sends us out to feel the hunger of others so that we learn to hunger for more of him.

It's not because he thinks we can save the world, or be the next Savior.

It's so we will hunger for him more and see him in deeper ways.

OUR HUNGER FOR GOD opens our hearts so that he can show us more and more of his presence and glory.

They get a front row seat of Jesus' glory that night...

The glory of his compassion that will never fail us