

Sermon 7//22/2018

Overcoming Irritation to Serve - Mark 6:30-44

Dear Servants of the Lord:

The great evangelist of the late 1800's, D.L. Moody just finished a series of sermons over a period of several nights. He was tired and worn out. He decided to rest and relax at a local Chicago restaurant.

A young waiter approached him with a request to talk to him because he had been having some personal problems. Moody was tired and weary from all his preaching and told the young waiter that he needed to rest. So he gave the young man his card and told him to come back tomorrow and they would talk about his problem.

The young waiter left and soon another waiter came to take Moody's order. Moody asked what had happened to the first waiter, the one he had just talked to. Hesitantly, the second waiter said: "The first waiter went outside and shot himself to death."

Moody said it was the greatest mistake he made in his ministry to turn someone away when they needed help because he was tired and worn out. Moody was human. He was tired and needed rest. Perhaps his compassion for this waiter at that time did not overcome his weariness or irritation about being approached with another problem.

Moody was a great instrument in the hands of God but he was human.

Jesus was human but he also was true God. He did not turn people away when they needed help even though as true Man he became tired, too. Jesus did not give people a business card and tell them to come back tomorrow. We see in Jesus...

Compassion to serve others even in times of stress

I. To serve people spiritually vv30-34

A. A time for rest vv30-31 Jesus told his disciple to rest a bit.

"If you don't come apart and rest, you will come apart."

I would not condemn D.L. Moody for what happened. He was worn out and tired. Rest is necessary. Sometimes you can't take anymore work. You want to get away from the deadlines and the appointments for your own good.

Jesus was weary. He was human. In this portion of the Gospel of Mark we learn that Jesus...

- had just heard the report of his disciples activity
- was busy and crowds were demanding
- was involved in miracles, preaching, counseling, comforting and driving out demons...

Jesus and his disciples did not even have time to eat.

We don't ever want to take a vacation from God, but it is necessary to take a vacation from ministry and serving others for one's own welfare.

This is what Jesus was doing. He was taking time to...

- relax
- rest
- pray
- meditate
- converse with his disciples

But what happened. Look at vv 32-33

The crowd followed Jesus as he withdrew and actually arrived at the place Jesus was going ahead of him. To go across the lake in a boat as Jesus did was about 4 miles. To walk around the lake as the people did was about 10 miles. The crowd on foot picked up more people as they passed through the towns to get where Jesus was.

They ran, especially the younger ones to see Jesus. It shows their great desire to be with him.

B. A time for compassion - "tears over the plight of sinners"

V34 the people around Jesus had enormous needs "sheep not having a shepherd"

- helpless
- starving
- lacking spiritual guidance
- lacking protection
- exposed to the perils of sin and spiritual destruction

"Life can be so bewildering. We can stand at some cross-roads of life and not know what way to take." Barclay

People who hurt are all around us. How do we respond to them?

- Are we irritated?
- Do we care about them?
- Do we know what they may be going through

Back on October 1, 1986 a Michigan High School was going to celebrate “Nerd Day.” The day before a 14 year old student hung himself in his home.

Are we sensitive to the pain around us?

The strange paradox about the Christian life is that by sharing other’s burdens our own are lifted from our shoulders. By giving away love our own love is replenished.

Jesus had compassion to be moved on the inside – the heart.

- active sympathy is shown in deeds
- the sorrows of the people were Jesus’ sorrows
- Jesus took our sorrows - Matthew 8:17

Going back to the story of D. L. Moody I read that his Sunday school was one of the largest in the whole city of Chicago. Children would walk past other churches just to attend Moody’s Sunday school. Why?

The answer the children gave was:

“Because we feel loved at Moody’s church.”

Jesus understands our sorrows.

Jesus takes our burdens

Jesus had compassion.

This word compassion means

“A tender feeling transformed into helpful action.”

Jesus often mentioned that his people were like sheep without a shepherd because of the failure of the Jewish religious leaders to care for the people of Israel.

Sheep will get lost if left to themselves.

- they will starve and fall into the hands of predators
- we would do the same – spiritually – if left to ourselves
- we are like sheep

Jesus began to teach the people of his day about...

- his kingdom
- his forgiveness

It is good to keep our focus on spiritual things. Colossians 3:1-3
Satan is good at getting our focus on physical things.

- he distracts us from God's Word
- he tries to get us to focus on people and problems in our life
- remember, he is a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour

There are three trends in the church today that keep people away from a spiritual focus...

- **the lack of knowledge of God's Word**
- **the lack of spiritual discernment**
- **the lack of prayer and Bible reading**

George Gallup said that Christians in America today are highly vulnerable and easy prey for false prophets.

Left to ourselves, we get lost – spiritually.

Jesus calls us with His compassion. He cares for us. He calls us to care for others both spiritually and physically.

II. To Serve People Physically vv35-44

A. Responsibility of Servants

Vv35-36 Disciples to Jesus: “Send the people away so they can buy their own food.”

The disciples told Jesus:

“Listen, Lord, we are in the wrong place at the wrong time and nothing can be done.”

The disciples formed a committee and gave up with this answer. Ever hear this definition of a committee: “A group of people who individually can do nothing and collectively decide that nothing can be done.”

The disciples always looked at the negative side of things. When parents were bringing children to Jesus the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said: “Let the children come...”

V37 We are the instruments of God's work. When we see a need may we ask the Father for help. Matthew 7:7-8

Jesus says to disciples: “You give them food to eat.”

The disciples seemed overwhelmed by the task of finding food for such a crowd. They tell Jesus it would take 8 months of a man’s wage to buy enough food.

Jesus did not see a problem but an opportunity, an opportunity to trust the Father and serve Him. This was not just another irritation but an opportunity for compassion in action.

The disciples saw the problem and not the potential.
See the potential and act by faith.

Human wisdom often says: “We don’t have enough. We can not do it. It would be too much for us.” Faith - with God all things are possible!

Jesus is preparing the disciples for a great lesson in faith and trust in God.

What were the resources? V38 a bag lunch

- 5 barley loaves – small and flat – not enough to feed 2 people
- 2 fish – small smoked or pickled fish – not 17 inch bass

B. Dependability of the Divine

V39 Imagine the picture of these people on the green grass in their colorful garments.

- they sat in groups “garden beds” in a row 50 semi-circles of 100 people each
- they gave thanks for what they had
- they trusted the Lord to provide
- total number up to 20,000 with women and children
- 5000 listed in Scripture only counts the men

What happened? The miracle of multiplication.

- the miracle took place in Jesus’ hands
- he will bless and multiply whatever we given to him
- there was more than enough v42 Ephesians 3:20-21

Ever wonder why there were 12 basketfuls?

- this was a concrete lesson for the disciples
- one basket for each disciple
- they were concerned about resources
- Jesus was concerned about the people

There are people all around us who need help. They may be starved...

- physically
- spiritually
- or both

We don't have the ability to meet these peoples' needs. We may even become irritable or pessimistic like the disciples. However, when we make available what we have to the Lord, he will multiply what we have to help others.

May we make ourselves available for the sake of others?

May we give our resources to the Lord for use in His kingdom?

A father took his son fishing one day. The fishing was rather slow and the child asked: "Dad, what is the toughest thing God ever tried to do?"

The father was caught off guard. He did not know how to answer the question posed by his son. He finally said: "Son I have decided that no one knows God really that well, so now I think the toughest thing God ever tired to do is to get us to understand who He is and that He loves us."

When we know God's love and compassion for us we will have love and compassion for others even when we are worn out and tired. It will be God's love and compassion flowing through us to meet the needs of others.

Romans 5:5 God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.