



REFLECTING JESUS'S HEART IN OUR CALLING

CRAIG REES

BIG IDEA:

The compassion of Christ is the bridge between the Gospel and the things I do to bring it to the world.

KEY SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 9:35-38

Matthew 12:7

Matthew 18:21-23

Matthew 4:23-25

Matthew 13:3-9

Matthew 23:13

Matthew 5:7

Matthew 14:14

Matthew 27:20

Matthew 9:13

Matthew 15:32

Philippians 1:8

1. Since last week, how have your gospel lenses been repositioned? How has your view of Jesus and the Gospel empowered a redirection of your affection?
2. Jesus knew what was going to happen to him but still had compassion on those involved. How difficult is it for you to have compassion on those who oppose you?
3. Jesus recognized that people were being 'fleeced' by their leaders. While Jesus would stand firm through his trial, the people would not, and it broke him. In your world right now, is there someone who is harassed and helpless? Recognizing that prayer is the bridge between Jesus's ministry and ours, name those people whose condition God has enabled you to see. Pray for them through this week.
4. The Christian mission cannot be accomplished at a distance. It will never be accomplished by privatizing our faith. It fundamentally requires personal involvement. The irony of the events detailed from Matthew 9:35 through the end of chapter 10 is that the disciples were the answer to their own prayer. What stops you from being the answer to the prayers you pray for other people? How difficult is it for you to 'publicize' your faith?
5. Read Philippians 1:8. Paul called on God to bear witness to his affection (same root as 'compassion') for the Philippians. Paul's longing is Christ's longing because the very heart of Christ dwelt in him. Recognizing that none of us is perfect, where are you at on the journey of Christ's heart for others being your heart? What one decision can you make to take the next step in Christ's heart for others being reflected in yours?
6. "The best thing that we can do to seize the moment is ensure that nothing distorts the best news in history." How are you tempted to distort the best news in history?
7. The compassion of Christ is the bridge between the Gospel and the things I do to bring it to the world. This compassion is motivated by the Gospel not the needs we see. Spend a moment thinking on the Gospel. How would you define it? How would you share it?
8. At Central we have 'corner cards.' Corner cards are a strategic tool to help us intentionally focus on people in our sphere of influence who need Jesus. If you have not already done so, pick up a corner card from the information desk at Central. In your group, share the names of the five people in your corner that you wish to reflect the heart of Christ to. As a group, pray that God would enable you to show the 'affection of Christ Jesus' to them.