

## Friend of Sinners

### Compassion

March 15, 2020 / Dan Solofra

Compassion is a lens through which I see people in need as an \_\_\_\_\_ for investment not an \_\_\_\_\_ to be ignored.

<sup>12</sup> John's disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus. <sup>13</sup> When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. **Matthew 14:12-13<sup>a</sup>, NIV**

John the Baptist's death \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

He needed to take personal time to \_\_\_\_\_.

Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup> When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. **Matthew 14:13<sup>b</sup>-14, NIV**

Jesus couldn't just \_\_\_\_\_ the pain of hurting friends.

His compassion moved him to \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>3</sup> "God blesses those who are **poor** and realize their **need** for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs." **Matthew 5:3, NLT**

<sup>13</sup> "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, '**God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**'"

<sup>14</sup> "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." **Luke 18:13-14, NIV**

I approach God as expectant \_\_\_\_\_, (aka sinner) but leave as adopted \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the kingdom.

<sup>15</sup> As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. **Send the crowds away**, so they can go to the villages and **buy themselves some food.**" **Matthew 14:15, NIV**

With no compassion my response to my fellow beggars is:

- \_\_\_\_\_ them away.
- \_\_\_\_\_ them for not planning.
- \_\_\_\_\_ their situation.

<sup>16</sup> Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." <sup>17</sup> "But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish!" they answered. **Matthew 14:16-17, NIV**

We often limit our compassion with a scarcity mentality and blame a \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>18</sup> "Bring them here," he said. <sup>19</sup> Then he told the people to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he gave the bread to the disciples, who distributed it to the people. <sup>20</sup> **They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.** <sup>21</sup> The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children. **Matthew 14:18-21, NLT**

God's overwhelming compassion is seen daily in an outpouring of daily bread, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

## MEMORY VERSE

<sup>14</sup> When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. **Matthew 14:14, NIV**

**My next step:** I will approach God with a humble spirit and beg for his mercy. I will embrace my new identity as his child and heir, and be an agent of compassion and mercy in my life.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.