

The Ripple Effect of Compassion

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Key Text: Mark 6:30–44 (NASB 1995)

Supporting Texts: Luke 19:10; Micah 6:8; Psalm 23; John 1:11

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-f-OP2UPZdl>

Introduction

- We rejoice when people obey the gospel because nothing matters more than salvation.
- Many have had opportunity and rejected Christ; life is fragile and time is short.
- Compassion works like ripples in water—one small act moves outward farther than we expect.
- One act of kindness can shape lives years later.
- In Mark 6 we see how Jesus' compassion created lasting impact.

Thesis:

Christlike compassion meets real needs, puts others first, and creates ripples that reach farther than we can see.

I. Compassion Sees People as Sheep Without a Shepherd (Mark 6:30–34)

- A. The apostles returned and reported their work.
- B. Jesus invited them to rest, but the crowds ran ahead and gathered.
- C. When Jesus saw them, He felt compassion.
- D. The reason: “They were like sheep without a shepherd.”

Teaching Point:

Sheep need a shepherd for protection, feeding, guidance, and care.

Callout — Application:

If people are lost and unguided, compassion does not avoid them—it moves toward them.

- E. Jesus' first response was to teach them many things.
 - F. True compassion begins with the soul before it addresses the body.
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II. Compassion Is Willing to Be Inconvenienced (Mark 6:35–37)

- A. The disciples saw the problem: late hour, remote place, thousands of people.
- B. Their solution: “Send them away.”
- C. Jesus' command: “You give them something to eat.”

Teaching Point:

Compassion does not look for the fastest exit; it looks for the faithful response.

- D. Jesus had just learned of John the Baptist's death.
- E. He sought rest, yet compassion interrupted His plans.
- F. He chose people over comfort and service over convenience.

Callout — Warning:

If compassion only works when it is easy, it is not biblical compassion.

III. Compassion Acts in Faith With What God Provides (Mark 6:38–41)

- A. Jesus asked, “How many loaves do you have?”
- B. The answer: Five loaves and two fish.
- C. Jesus:
 - Organized the crowd
 - Looked to heaven
 - Blessed the food
 - Broke it

- Gave it to the disciples to distribute

Teaching Point:

Compassion does not wait for abundance; it trusts God with what is available.

- D. The miracle began in Jesus' compassion, not in the crowd's resources.
 - E. God multiplies what is surrendered to Him.
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IV. Compassion Satisfies and Overflows (Mark 6:42–44)

- A. "They all ate and were satisfied."
- B. Twelve baskets of leftovers were collected.
- C. Five thousand men were counted, not including women and children.
- D. Likely tens of thousands were fed.

Teaching Point:

When Jesus provides, He does not barely meet the need—He fills and overflows.

Callout — Illustration:

If you had been there as a child, you would still be telling that story years later. That is the ripple effect of compassion.

V. The Ripple Effect of Compassion

- A. One act of compassion becomes a story told for generations.
- B. Jesus' compassion that day is still preached today.
- C. Compassion creates:
 - Changed lives
 - Lasting testimony
 - Open doors for the gospel

Teaching Point:

The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10), and compassion serves that mission.

VI. Compassion Requires Selflessness

- A. It puts others before self.
- B. It resists a selfish, self-centered culture.
- C. It reflects the heart of Christ, who gave His life for the lost.

Callout — Application:

The church does not exist to serve itself; it exists to glorify God by serving the lost.

VII. Our Call: Become the Ripple

- A. Compassion begins with individuals.
- B. Compassion grows through the church.
- C. Compassion points people to Christ.

Callout — Challenge:

Do not wait for a holiday or a program to be compassionate. Live it every day.

Conclusion / Call to Action

- Jesus showed compassion when He was tired, grieving, and pressed by crowds.
- His compassion fed thousands and still feeds souls today.
- This world is broken, and Christians are called to be light and salt.
- Let your life create ripples of mercy, kindness, and truth.
- If you are not a Christian:
 - Believe that Jesus is the Son of God
 - Repent of sin

- Confess Christ
- Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins
- If you are a Christian:
 - Live compassionately
 - Serve selflessly
 - Let Christ be seen in you

Final Call:

Be the ripple. Let Christ's compassion move through your life into this world.

Slide Deck — “The Ripple Effect of Compassion” (12 Slides)

Slide 1 — Title

The Ripple Effect of Compassion

Mark 6:30–44

Design intent: Light background, dark text, calm and reverent tone, high contrast.

Slide 2 — Why Compassion Matters

Main content:

- Lives are changed by the gospel
- Time is short
- People are lost without Christ

Design intent: Clean layout, high contrast, reflective mood.

Slide 3 — The Ripple Illustration

Main content:

- A drop in water creates ripples
- One act can travel far

- Compassion works the same way
Design intent: Simple, visual, peaceful tone.

Slide 4 — Jesus Sees the Crowd

Main content:

- “Sheep without a shepherd”
- He felt compassion
Scripture: Mark 6:34
Design intent: Teaching-focused, clear and readable.

Slide 5 — Compassion Starts With the Soul

Main content:

- Jesus began by teaching
- Spiritual need comes first
Design intent: Serious, instructional tone.

Slide 6 — The Disciples’ Solution

Main content:

- It’s late
- The place is desolate
- “Send them away”
Design intent: Problem-focused, neutral background, strong contrast.

Slide 7 — Jesus’ Command

Main content:

- “You give them something to eat”
- Compassion accepts inconvenience
Design intent: Emphasis on responsibility and action.

Slide 8 — Faith With What We Have

Main content:

- Five loaves, two fish
- Jesus blesses and breaks

Scripture: Mark 6:38–41

Design intent: Hopeful, trusting tone, clear text.

Slide 9 — Everyone Was Satisfied

Main content:

- All ate
- Twelve baskets left over
- God provides more than enough

Design intent: Encouraging, abundant theme.

Slide 10 — The Ripple Effect

Main content:

- Thousands remembered that day
- We still preach it today

Design intent: Testimony-focused, inspiring mood.

Slide 11 — Compassion Is Selfless

Main content:

- Puts others first
- Reflects the heart of Christ

Scripture: Luke 19:10

Design intent: Call-to-action tone, serious and clear.

Slide 12 — Be the Ripple

Main content:

- Live compassionately
- Serve faithfully
- Point people to Christ

Design intent: Invitation-focused, clean, readable, high contrast.
