

Jesus and Compassionate Service by Doug Nichols

Acts 10:38 “You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how **He went about doing good**, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him.”

Matthew elaborates in his gospel (9:35-36) “And Jesus was going about all the cities and the villages, **teaching** in their synagogues, and **proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom**, and **healing** every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. And **seeing** the multitudes, He felt **compassion** for them, because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd.”

First of all, notice the

I. Words and Works of Jesus

Because of the **concern** of Jesus for people, because of His mission, He was **teaching** them, **proclaiming** the Gospel to them, and **healing** them. Jesus thought of His **words** and **works** as constituting a single ministry. Notice He **declared** the Gospel and His **works** were signs of the Gospel of the kingdom He declared.

When you and I become Christians, Christ ones, **our lives are changed**. We begin to live the life of Christ. Our changed lives are not the Gospel but are the **result of the Gospel**.

Over the last several years many leaders have made statements that the Gospel has **two wings**; one wing **evangelism** and the other **social service**. But the **Gospel is not a bird!** Evangelical social services, good works **are the result of the Gospel** in our lives. If you see a person in trouble, you help because you are a Christian. If someone has a need **you help because Christ lives in you**.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."(Eph. 2:8-10).

Matthew 5, you light shines. See your works.

(I. Word and Works of Jesus)

Secondly, notice that

II. Jesus Really Sees

Jesus **saw** the **multitudes**, He saw the crowds.

True love is always observant, and the eyes of **Jesus never missed the sight of need**.

Many of us today however are like the **priest** and **Levite** in the story of the **good Samaritan**. Of both it is written, he saw him. **Both saw** the man beaten and robbed and

dying and lying beside the road. But **they saw without seeing**, for they **looked the other way** and **passed on the other side of the road**.

Jesus, on the other hand, **truly `saw'**. He was not afraid to look human need in the face, in all its ugly reality.

Jesus sees today, just as we are to see. Don't close your **eyes**, look what is happening today:

- The **starving** thousands in Africa and Asia.
- The **brain washed** millions of North Korea and China.
- The **innocent victims** of war and terrorism throughout the world.
- The **slaughter of millions** by starvation, killing and slave labor in oppressive countries and situations.
- The undernourished, **poverty stricken** of India, Haiti, Brazil, the Philippines, Bangladesh, and many countries of Africa.

Yes, we need the eyes of Jesus, who when He **saw** was **moved with compassion** and in compassionate **service**.

Jesus **saw**, He **felt**, He **acted**. The movement was from the **eye** to the **heart**, and from the **heart** to the **hand**. The compassion of Jesus was always aroused by the sight of need, and it **always led** to **action**.

Old lady got married at 65 – lots of children.

- People were **leaderless** and He said “**Follow me.**”
- People were **hungry** and He **fed them**.
- People were **diseased** and He reached out His hand and **healed** them.
- People were **ignorant** of the truth so He **taught** them.
- People were **downcast** and **distressed** so He gave them hope.
- People were **lonely** and He **comforted** them.
- People **needed salvation** from sin and Jesus the Lord of glory in their place for their sin – died in our place for our sin to give salvation.

- I. Words and Works of Jesus
- II. Jesus Really Sees

Thirdly, we need to ask, "What can you and I do?"

III. We are to Display True Love to the World

Turn with me to **I John 3:16-18**

“We know love by this, that **He** (Jesus) **laid down His life for us**: and we ought to **lay down our lives** for the brethren. But whoever has the world's goods, **and beholds his brother in need** and **closes his heart** against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in **deed** and **truth**.”

These verses are introduced by the statement that it is by Jesus' **Self sacrifice** that **we know love!**

The world would have never known the meaning of love if it had not been for the CROSS OF CHRIST! Listen closely!: Only one act of pure, undiluted love has ever been performed in the long history of man, and that is the **self-giving of Jesus on the cross**. There He loved with perfect love. He gave everything (Himself) for those who deserve nothing (sinners like us).

True love then, is sacrificial service, giving of oneself to serve others. John says, “**we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren**.” This is not just deeds of heroism but also includes the unspectacular **deeds of service**. We can lay down our lives' when we **give them freely in the service of others**.

Give yourself to others as Jesus gave Himself to and for us.

The apostle John in verse 17 applies this principle (of giving ourselves to others) to individual Christians who may have some of this world's **material** possessions or **talents** and **abilities**.

John describes this Christian (most of us here today) as having two characteristics. **First**, this Christian **has the world's goods**, and secondly, he **beholds his brother in need**.

This is the situation; notice “**he sees**” and “**he has**”. He **sees** the need and **he has the means to meet it**.

- He sees **sickness** and he has **medicine** and medical training.
- He sees **ignorance** and he has **knowledge**.
- He sees **nakedness** and he has **clothing**.
- He sees **hunger** and he has **food**.
- He sees **lack of training** and he has **technical skills**.

- He sees **poverty** and he has **money**.
- He sees **darkness** and he has the **light**.
- He sees **lostness** and he has the **Gospel**.

The simple question is, whether when you are **I see** these needs will we relate this to what we **have**.

We know what Jesus did. He **saw**, He **felt**, He **acted**. What about us? If we do not apply what we have to what we see, we are **closing our hearts** against our needy brothers.

If we 'close our heart' against our needy brother John says, **how does the love of God abide in (you) him** (vs. 17). It doesn't. It cannot, for divine love is **service**, not **sentiment**; let me repeat divine love is **service**, not sentiment!"

Illustration: A young man by the name of Mark McDowell came to the Philippines to visit his sister, a teacher at Faith Academy, a school for missionary children. Mark also helped ACTION in a building program in our Second Mile Discipleship and Vocational Training Program for underprivileged boys.

Before returning to the USA, Mark received permission to build a small room in an extremely poor squatter area named Bagong Silang in Manila and lived with these poor for three weeks. He did this to be close to the people he loved to enable him to share the Gospel with them on a continual basis. Since he was a carpenter, he repaired and improved many shacks, helped carry water from the well for the village, assisted many families with their problems, conducted Bible studies, shared the Gospel and led several to Christ.

About a month after Mark left, his sister-in-law was having a Bible study in the squatter area with some of the new Christians who had trusted Christ. They were studying the resurrection. During the lesson, Mark's sister-in-law asked the question, "What was the greatest event in history?" She fully expected the people in the Bible study to answer, "the resurrection." However, this was not the answer they gave. They all answered as one, "the greatest event in history was when Mark came to live with us!" To them the greatest event in all of history was the resurrected Christ living in the life of Mark and coming into their midst.

1 John 3:18 "Little children, let us not love with **word** or with **tongue**, but in **deed** and **truth**", for **divine love is service, not sentiment!**