



Summer Sermon Reflections

A Never Ending Compassion

Wherever he went, Jesus always drew huge crowds. Knowing about Jesus' never ending compassion, people came from miles around to experience life in his presence or to share such life with those they brought to Jesus. How is such transformation from Jesus' compassion apparent today? Just look around on any Sunday. Jesus still draws crowds.

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 — The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things...When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed.

For Personal Study

What draws you in? What captures your attention? What gets you so excited that your thoughts keep going back to it... even after days or weeks?

Is it excited anticipation over an upcoming vacation? Is it your last major purchase (car, wide screen TV, computer, gaming system, home)? A new job or school?

Or maybe you aren't exactly excited, but you still get hooked on something... Browsing eBay auctions? Checking in with your favorite blogs? Getting a better score on a game? Keeping up with your favorite TV shows or the latest rumors about neighbors or co-workers.

Maybe it's your kids? A new (or old) love? Your health? A favorite sport or other activity? A club, organization, or group of friends?

Some passions can be good. Others are definitely bad. But what if your passion... your obsession... your "habit"... was simply *Jesus*?

If Jesus were your passion, how would that affect your daily activities? Interactions with others? Commitment to church? Relationship with *him*?

The people in today's Bible story were so excited about Jesus and all he could do. But did he push them away? No. He had compassion for them, he taught them, and he healed them!

Jesus has all that waiting for us too. We just need to come to him. Don't let him get crowded out of your life. No, it's time to get excited... get hooked... get obsessed... with *Jesus*! Make him your #1 habit and goal, and your priorities after him will fall into place.

Readings & Questions for Daily Discovery or Group Discussion

Monday, July 24

What things consume your thoughts and time? Write them in order. Now, if you could re-order the list, what would come first? Second? What shouldn't be on your list at all? *Mark 12:28-31*

Tuesday, July 25

Think what your life would be like if Jesus were your passion? Pray for more Jesus-passion today. *Matthew 6: 19-21, Luke 10:27*

Wednesday, July 26

How does Jesus respond when we come to him? *Luke 15:20*

Thursday, July 27

How do you respond when others need help or direction? How would you like to respond? *Luke 10: 25-37*

Friday, July 28

Who in your life needs compassion? What do you need? *Mark 6:30-34, 53-56* see sermon text above