



# Sermon Notes from 19 May

## Behold with Eyes of Compassion! (Mark 6:30-44)

by Pastor GL Wong

As sinners and sufferers in this broken world, we always try to discern if we deserve one another's compassion. In the Bible, we learn that true compassion is radical – it is given to the undeserving. There are no standards to be met. God looks at all of us; undeserving mankind, with compassion. God by nature is compassionate (Ex. 34:6). No one is beyond His compassion.

### 4 Insights from The Feeding of the Five Thousand (Mk. 6:30-44):

**1) The problem with the crowd (v34)**  
By this time, Jesus was well known throughout Galilee. A big crowd had followed Him, and this deprived the disciples of rest. For most people, compassion is tied to personal well-being. But not Jesus; He put the crowd's interests above His own. Jesus saw the crowd like sheep without a shepherd (v34). The metaphor of shepherding is commonly used across the Bible (Ps. 23); God's people as the sheep and God as the Shepherd. A sheep without a shepherd is hopeless, but a sheep with a good shepherd possesses hope. As the good Shepherd, Jesus had compassion on them and began teaching (v34) and curing the sick (Mat. 12:14, Lu. 9:11). Cry out to God and lay hold onto His compassion for you!

### **2) The struggle within the disciples (v35-40)**

Instead of looking at the crowd with compassion, the disciples looked at them as problems. They proposed to send the crowd away (v36). But Jesus, having compassion towards them, responded by exposing in them their own self-centeredness in their service.

Jesus was compassionately realigning their hearts. God realigns your heart by bringing you to a point of repentance and helplessness through prayer. In that state, you look away from what you lack and in faith look upon God to provide. God compassionately involves us into His plan, and in our service to people, our hearts grow in compassion for them. Service is God's way of revealing Jesus' compassion through us.

### **3) The blessing from Jesus (v41-44)**

The greatest blessing Jesus compassionately gave to everyone was the revelation of His true identity: the true Shepherd that satisfies. Jesus reveals that the most beautiful expression of compassion is substitutionary in nature. True compassion leads one to take another person's suffering and pain upon oneself. On the cross, Jesus the good Shepherd took up the curse of His sheep's waywardness, laid down His life and blessed each one with His righteousness.

Jn. 6:47-51 – Jesus is comfort food for our souls. The blessing of Christ as the bread of life is sufficient for all right up to eternity. Put your faith into Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour!

### **4) The charge for all of us**

#1 Receive God's compassion – Accept that you are in need of God's compassion and be liberated from self-condemnation and self-pity!

#2 Pray with God's compassion – Pray with one heartbeat for God to heal our land!

#3 Serve with God's compassion – Keep your heart tender in service towards God!