

Decentralized Compassion Primer

The Point:

Live your life with your eyes wide open - ready and willing to weave the gospel into every compassionate act - knowing that the gospel was the ultimate display of compassion.

Final Thought:

The Ten Second Rule: "Just do the next thing you're reasonably certain Jesus wants you to do. Commit to it immediately - in the next ten seconds - before you change your mind." - Clare DeGraaf

Read:

And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet and implored him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live." And he went with him.

And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my garments?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'" And he looked around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. And when he had entered, he said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was.

Taking her by the hand he said to her, “Talitha cumi,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat. (Mark 5:21-43 ESV)

Bible Study and Discussion Questions:

1. Jesus is just getting settled to begin teaching when he is interrupted by Jairus. How is the story of Jesus and Jairus an example of Jesus “living life with his eyes wide open” like Pastor Bill said on Sunday?
 - a. What could it look like for you to live your life with your eyes wide open?
 - b. Why is it so hard for us as people to be interrupted from our agenda? Why was Jesus willing to go with Jairus do you think?
 - c. How does living with eyes wide open relate to both our passions/callings and daily chances to show compassion?
2. Technically, the woman sick with perpetual bleeding was ceremonially unclean and was obligated by pharisaical law to inform everyone that she was unclean. By touching Jesus, she would break purity laws and render Jesus ceremonially unclean (according to Jewish tradition and law). Rather than get mad, Jesus shows her compassion - something the Pharisees never would have done.
 - a. Towards whom do you find it challenging to be compassionate? Why do you think this is?
 - b. Towards whom do you find it simple to be compassionate? Why?
3. In John 17:4, Jesus prayed, “I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.” Clearly, Jesus didn’t heal everyone, raise all the dead, give sight to all the blind, yet he “accomplished the work” that God gave him to do. What was the work that God sent Jesus to do?
 - a. What does John 17:4 look like for us? What is the work that God sent YOU to do?
 - i. Consider looking up Ephesians 2:8-10.
 - b. How does this relate to WOVEN?

Action Steps - Start living with eyes wide open!

1. Is someone or something right in front of you that needs Jesus' compassion manifested through your touch and care? Act on it. Don't wait.
2. Check out <http://www.revolvechurchnj.com/woven>
3. Do you know your thread? If not, click on the link and follow the instructions.
4. Are you ready to be connected with other like-minded people? Fill out the form so that we can begin mobilizing you.
5. Are you already living out your compassionate calling? How can you help set the pace for this at Revolve? Fill out the pacesetter form and let us know!