SERMON NOTES & LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

VIRAL! IT ALL STARTS WITH COMPASSION, Mat 9:35-38, Curt Brunk 12:11.09

Why are we so moved by the plight of others?

Answer to that opens up a way for us to understand God, Ourselves and what Life really all about

Key passage: Mat 9:35-37

"harassed and helpless"

In their day difficult circumstances – so metaphor for deeper plight overt

In our day, even with economic collapse, etc., circumstances much better – but real plight as bad as ever

God knows the life He has for us - all fall short…

This grieves God, fills him with "compassion"

Splanchnizomai – gut wrenching

Jesus would see people sick and be "filled with [gut wrenching] compassion," Mark 1:40-41

This is in God's very nature/being:

Parable of King forgiving a HUGE debt: we owe more than could ever pay, God desires to forgive it, Mat 18:26-27

Parable of Prodigal Son: Father grieved, always hoping for our return, when we do, He runs to us, absorbs us in His loving embrace, Luke 15:20.

Point being: God puts Himself into our circumstances/plight in ways deeper than we get

Splanchnizomai only used of Jesus, never of an actual person

We are to be conformed ever more to His image: Parable of Good Samaritan, Lk 10:30

We experience it in part in stories as we identify with the protagonist, i.e. we become one with the person and go through the situation

But note, not just identifying with in mind, be like Jesus – in image of God – and go forth in action

As James says: what good is faith without action? James 2:14-17

Jesus is God's *Splanchnizomai* manifested

NEXT WEEK: Says Who?! The Keepers of the Faith

This is the glorious life God has for us. Nothing can fulfill us like this does.

Feel it, live it in this wonderful season where "it is better to give than receive."

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LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Interested in Facilitating a new Life Group in January? Contact Dan danl@lakesamm.org

1. Matthew 9 envisions Jesus & the disciples in the presence of large crowds of people in Matt 9. Describe the impressions you have had when you have been close up to crowds in the past month? What thoughts, emotions come to you in these times?
2. Curt described a visceral, internal "gut- turning" response that Jesus had as He viewed directionless people of Matt 9: 36- 37. What would be required to inspire that kind of "compassion" in you and me? When have you seen this deep and behaviorally active compassion in play in your life's experience?
3. What does Col 1:24 mean to you in the context of this sermon?
4. Describe what the church in America would look like if we were regularly fueled by this kind of compassion? The church on the Eastside?

TODAY'S OPPORTUNITY: (Remember to watch for God to move this week and tell us your testimony!)

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I will pray for _____ to come to Jesus