

Seeing the world through Jesus' Tears  
Carrying on with our Open our Eyes series

**slide1.**Why I've been asked to talk about this, (nothing we don't already know but my hope is that it will bring to the forefront God's love for us, for his people, his world, and the part that we play as his hands and feet)

-Break our hearts for what breaks yours, everything I am for your kingdom cause....  
Why is it important to see the world through Jesus' eyes? Because if we see people, the world through compassionate eyes, we will be moved into action. I think it's about feeling the emotions and then doing something about it.

**Slide 2.** Lord's prayer- "your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as it is in heaven..."  
It's what we long for

A-Ambitious for the kingdom

-examples of what heaven looks like on earth, on a global scale there would be no wars, no famines, no refugee camps. Last Saturday it was world refugee day and I was listening to lectio, those that don't use that it's a daily bible reading run by the 24/7 prayer group and Pete Grieg was reflecting on world refugee day and quoted that 117 million people woke up that morning homeless having been forcibly displaced from their homes by war, violence, natural disasters or the effects of climate change and particularly heart-breaking that forty percent of them are kids, under the age of 18. I find those numbers hard to comprehend so thinking on a more local scale if we saw Gods kingdom come today in Truro, I imagine there would be no hungry children, who rely on a school meal and go without during the holidays. no babies sleeping on a mouldy, damp mattress like there was just down the road. no one sleeping rough outside, no homelessness

-Dan and I recently went to deliver a cot to a family, I have no judgement about this story, we can just end up in these situations but my reason for sharing it is to see it through God's eyes. There was cat litter all over the floor, reeking of cigarettes, overcrowded house, no space for the Mum to change the baby on the floor. I know my Father in heaven wants better for that baby. I know my Father in heaven wants better for that Mum. When I see a homeless person, I wonder how they got there, they were once a treasured loved baby, or you hope so- even if they weren't, God celebrates over every birth, says in Isaiah 49 "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you." (quite emotive as we oncourse know that can happen)

Every single person is known intimately and loved deeply by the God who made them and died to save them.

**Slide 3.**

-some of you may know I'm a GP though I don't do much doctor work these days but some weekends I work for the out of hours service and one Sunday morning, I was at work, I knew Rob and the kids were here and I'd been reflecting on how different our experiences would be that morning. Anyway my next call was to a young homeless guy in his early 20s, he had been put up in a portacabin which seems to be the latest solution our council have to homelessness, he was so sad and lonely and he shared some of his story with me which was

that he had been abused from a young boy, in care most of his childhood and then spat out of the system when he was 18. I'm not saying this to be political, it was just the reality of his situation.

He was calling about a physical health need but of course there was a lot more to it than that but after we'd come to a solution about his physical needs and he'd hung up, the bible verse came to me

"...I have come that they may have life and have it to the full. "John 10:10

-this guy has no idea about this truth, he has definitely not experienced a life to the full, and what have I done about it?

-helped a physical need but I had so much more I could have shared with him, obviously there are challenges with that, our calls are recorded for training and monitoring purposes but is that just an excuse?

Matthew 5:15" neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl, instead they put it on a stand and it gives light to everyone in the house"

A lot of us here, know this truth, that there is more to life than the world has offered, that Jesus came to save us and give us life in all its fullness and yet sometimes it feels easier not to share that with others and later I want to look at some of the reasons that may be for us.

This talk is basically all about compassion...

First look at God's example of compassion

COMPASSION

#### **Slide 4**

2. God-

Going back to Moses' days.

In Exodus 33 When God asks Moses to lead his people into the promised land Moses asks to see God, he says in vs 12: you have been telling me to lead these people, but you have not let me know whom you will send with me." In vs 18 Moses then asks ""Now show me your glory"

So, God says in vs 19

"I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you and I will proclaim my name the Lord in your presence. "In vs 20 "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live. Vs 21 Then the Lord said there is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by, then I will remove my hand and you will see my back but my face must not be seen."

Exodus 34 vs 5" Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name the Lord, and he passed in front of Moses proclaiming the Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness"

I read this week that the order in Hebrew scripture is important, the fact that this is the first characteristic of God that we are told, shows that it is the most important.

1<sup>st</sup> thing God says about himself is That he is COMPASSIONATE-the first name he gives himself.

We know that our god is a just god and he does get angry but his baseline emotion towards us is mercy first and that blessing is for us just as much as the next person it's just we know it and have experienced it already.

In Micah 6 we are told "He has shown you O mortal what is good, and what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your god."

Jesus uses the story of the prodigal son to illustrate his view of God-

We know the story of the prodigal son, one son is a bit wild, a party animal and asks for his father's inheritance so he can go off and live the life he wants, the other son stays behind and keeps working the land. The son that goes off inevitably runs out of money and so comes back to beg his Dad for mercy, but when he gets close to his home it says in Luke 15:20 "his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him, he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him"

This is a beautiful image of God's love for us, His forgiveness and the mercy and compassion he shows us.

It's the same mercy and compassion he shows to all, I wonder if we feel the same or can we sometimes be a bit judgemental and let that cloud our love for others.

3. Jesus-

Was the most compassionate person to walk the earth!

A few weeks ago, we had an all-in. service with Lynda, Ellie and Nicky and we had all the different examples on the board of encounters Jesus had with people, all of which I WOULD SAY SHOWED COMPASSION. I really liked one of the points Ellie made about how Jesus really saw people, he properly saw them and stopped what he was doing and responded to them. I also noticed how Jesus was forever being interrupted which is something I'll talk about at the end.

Just before we look at some more examples of Jesus' compassion, I think it's important at this point to just pause and highlight the difference between sympathy and compassion....

### Slide 5

#### **Compassion is different from sympathy....**

-the difference lies in how we respond to another person's suffering...

-sympathy is **Feeling for someone e.g.** recognising that someone is hurting whereas compassion is feeling with someone and taking action.

An example would be imagine someone had fallen into a ditch.

### Slide 6

**Sympathy** stands at the edge and says "that's terrible. I'm sorry your down there"

**Compassion** climbs down, offers a hand and helps them out

Summed up in James 2: 15-16 "Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, Go in peace, keep warm and well fed, but does nothing about their physical needs what good is it..."

Jesus shows compassion on everyone he met. He didn't stand and notice from a distance, he stopped and responded. His compassion led him to wait at the well for the samiritan woman. His compassion caused him to look up at Zaccheus and invite him down to meet with him. His compassion led him to stop everytime he was asked for a healing, to heal the blind, the lame, interrupted his teaching when a lame man was stretchered down through the roof.

The feeding of the 5,000 The crowd listening to him were hungry, he didn't say they should have been more prepared and brought lunch. He had compassion on them and fed them. Even on the cross, where he shows the ultimate sacrifice, of laying his life down for another...he has compassion for the guy next to him when he says "truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise"

In summary Jesus met with the last, the least and the lost which was something mentioned in a Talk I went to as a teenager and has stuck with me ever since.

#### **Slide 7.**

He calls a tax collector-Matthew to be one of his disciples, not who the world would choose, and when the pharisees questioned his disciples on this and why Jesus ate with tax collectors and sinners Jesus overheard this he replied "it is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill. But go and learn what this means, I desire mercy not sacrifice, for I have not come to call the righteous but sinners"

Again, he has come for the last, the least and the lost.

I think it's easy to forget this sometimes and we can learn a lot about humility from Jesus' example instead of judgement.

-Matthew 9:35-38

I find this passage very challenging....

Sheep and goat...

Matthew 25 vs 31-46

The verse I want us to ponder on and take home is vs 40...

"The King will reply, truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 26:40

If we can see people as if they are Jesus, how different would our attitude be to them?

4. Our response...

### Slide 9

What **barriers** are there to “moving into action, to fulfilling what God has called us to do, to love his world, his people to show compassion on them”

1.-inconvenience-interrupts our day, which we can often jam full with too much stuff, not all that needs doing, do we allow ourselves to be interrupted and to show compassion. Do we allow time/prioritise stopping and chatting with that guy selling the big issue in Truro or do we hurry past like I do and at best give an awkward smile?

2.-comfort, we talk about “having a comfortable life”, “being comfortably well off”, putting money aside for our pension our culture drives us towards feeling comfortable, mod cons and new technology point towards increasing our comfort. **I think often our conviction to do something is at war with our desire to feel comfortable**, But I’m not sure Jesus’ motivation was about feeling comfortable, he seems to go out of his way to achieve the opposite, I don’t think God calls us to be comfortable but he doesn’t call to do it alone...

-time/busyness, we can forget those past callings/what God has previously laid on our hearts, maybe from a long time ago, maybe more recently.

3. a) Have our hearts grown cold as we’ve got older? Have we tried in the past to help and not got anywhere? Had it thrown back in our face? Have we got disillusioned and discouraged by the state of the world.

Children see life much simpler than we do, they don’t see the barriers that we put up, yet Jesus clearly said we need to become like children...

What did we see in the world as children which didn’t feel fair and we have now become used to/numb to/the news doesn’t shock us anymore...and so we aren’t moved into action....

Jesus said to his disciples when they asked him about who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, he said you need to become like a child, Matthew 18:3 **“Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven”**

I know that isn’t strictly about this but I do think there is something in Jesus asking us to see the world like little children do, they see the unfairness and injustice as it is.

-story taking the girls walking in London, to Victoria train station, how horrendous the homelessness was, one older guy who was clearly intoxicated had fallen out of his wheelchair, his feet were still in the chair but his face was on the ground, the irony being he was about 50 yards from the entrance to a church. **Elsie**, saying we have a spare room they can live with us...

Our adult brain straightaway thinks about the practicalities of that and of course safety is something to consider, but what if we started to think about that scenario through Jesus’ eyes, if we asked the holy spirit to speak to us about that and lead us into that situation... how different would the outcome look, would we each have a homeless person living with us... what would that say to the world about Jesus!

How can we see the world like Jesus does....

**Slide 10**

1. I think seeing the world through Jesus' eyes is asking/allowing Christ to transform our hearts, I think that's how we start to see like he does, how we start to see with compassion and not critically, how we can be more generous

2. Frank spoke about abiding with God, the more time we spend with God, dwelling on his teachings, listening to him, just being with him the more our heart will be aligned with his. Frank said its about "presence before purpose, relationship before calling"

3) asking the holy spirit to lead us

When Jesus appeared to the disciples after his resurrection, he told them to wait in Jerusalem until the holy spirit came before they went out. In Luke 24:49 "I am going to send you what my father has promised but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high"

Then in Matthew 28 we have our great commission- vs 19 "therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the father and of the son and of the holy spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Acts 1:8

"you will receive power when the holy spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

Come and receive the holy spirit so we can move into action...

Prayer over us...

Isaiah 61:

"The spirit of the sovereign Lord is on me because the lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners to proclaim the year of the lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn"