



CELL GUIDE 2015

Theme	Jubilee – Year of Compassion
Topic	Year of Compassion
Speaker	Rev William Loke
Date	27 th & 28 th June 2015

Message Summary

Spiritual Objective: Showing our Faith by our Actions

We often emphasise our faith in God and in the Word through our quiet time or the reading and meditation of the bible. While those are important, there is also a biblical call for us to show our faith through loving actions to those in need. How often do we see simple service to the neglected as part of God's command for us, as part of our faith in Christ?

We need to see that the religion that our Heavenly Father calls us to is a religion of compassion. Just as **James 1:27** reminds us, while we are called to be holy just as He is holy, it is also the care and concern we show to the weak and powerless that pleases God the Father.

As **James 2:17** reminds us, if we truly believe this teaching, that God calls us to serve and care for the weak and neglected, then we need to put this belief into action, for faith without actions is dead.

We need to see that, as with **Isaiah 58:7**, the sacrifice and fasting that pleases God would be to feed, shelter and clothe those in need, and not to turn away from them.

Through the story of how God cares for a widow through the prophet Elisha in **2 Kings 4:1-7**, this sermon will discuss the challenges that we face as we seek to move out with compassion to serve the community among us.

3 Challenges as we move with Compassion to serve the Community

1. Serve with what you have

Even as Elisha sought to help the widow in **2 Kings 4**, the first question that he asked was "What do you have in your house?" God is fully capable of helping the poor and neglected by Himself, but He has invited us to participate in this journey of joy together with Him. As a partnership, God will not leave us to do His will without His participation, but he requires us still to use what He has given us in His service.

The task facing us may seem immense, and our own abilities may seem insignificantly small in the face of these challenges. But we must remember that we have a great God on our side. The challenge facing us is not how to overcome great tasks with our simple gifts, but to simply offer these gifts for His service. Like the little child when Jesus fed the five thousand, we do not have to wonder how many people our five loaves and two



CELL GUIDE 2015

fishes would be able to feed. We just need to recognise that we do possess these gifts and offer them to God to use for His glory.

At times, what we have might seem so small that we do not even see that we have anything to offer at all! In such times, we are to remind ourselves not to be consumed by such a spirit of poverty! We need to remind ourselves of our passion for the lost that Christ had as well, that we all have certain gifts that God has given us, and that we are called to use our gifts in His service. We must be willing to take out our five loaves and two fish.

In the end, it is not about the gifts we have, but about our obedience in offering up these gifts and faithfulness in trusting God to work with them.

2. Seek support from your community

After finding out what the widow had, Elisha did not send her out to solve her issues on her own. Instead, he asked her to look for support and help among her neighbours. Participating in the will of God is a joyful privilege. God desires that we do not keep this to ourselves, but to share the joy with others.

After all, God has blessed us that we might bless others in turn and it is in serving that we develop an even greater understanding and appreciation of God's passion for the lost and neglected.

And it is through serving that others will know that we are His disciples, and that God, and the church, care for them. Let us not keep this blessing to ourselves, but seek to involve the community around us so that through us, His Name may be glorified!

3. Seize opportunities

Finally, even as the widow watched a miracle unfold before her eyes, we are left with a stark warning. If we do not seize the moment and act to be a part of God's work, God may take that opportunity from us and give it to someone else. After all, God is sovereign and His will cannot be stopped. If we will not do it, He will do so through someone else.

The Lord can choose anyone, but He has chosen us. God will not force us to participate in His will, but He creates opportunities for us to take part in His joy. BCCSC has been created with BBTC in mind. To provide BBTCians with opportunities to participate in the will of God and to use what they have been blessed with to bless others.

How will we respond? Will we rise up and say, "Here I am Lord, send me"?



CELL GUIDE 2015

Questions

Before we go out to bless others, we must first know that we have been blessed ourselves. What has the Lord blessed you with, that you might use to serve others?

(Fill In Answer Here)

What are some of the challenges we face in blessing others? What are the areas of service you find particularly difficult to be a blessing? (Example, family, friends, colleagues, the needy, the elderly etc)

(Fill In Answer Here)

BBTC has many avenues of service - what is one way you can begin to serve?

(Fill In Answer Here)
