

## MOVED WITH COMPASSION TO BRING HEALING TO OUR BROKEN WORLD

Our world is broken and it needs healing. We see it in the single parent working two jobs who gets asked, “What would you do to survive?” and have no good answer. Further it is seen in the evening news: wars that displace families, greed that empties communities, abuse of power that silences the weak. Similarly, we see it closer to home in loneliness, addiction, and the quiet poverty of people who smile on Sunday but weep on Monday. Brokenness means pain. It means helplessness. It means walking through life feeling unprotected and vulnerable, as if one more blow could shatter everything.

But here’s the good news: our broken world is also full of potential. It’s not dead. It’s wounded, and wounds can heal. This world is waiting for someone to begin the hard but beautiful work of healing and restoration — planting a garden where there was concrete, protecting a child from harm, fixing what’s broken instead of throwing it away. These acts are noble because they refuse to accept that brokenness is irredeemable.

In this weekend’s Gospels, Jesus is never neutral about suffering. He sees it, names it, and is moved with compassion. It is amazing that in Jesus a difference is made, thus when Jesus is moved with compassion, healing follows. He touches the leper. He feeds the hungry. He weeps with the grieving. True compassion is “deep sympathy and sorrow for another, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering.”

However, we need to watch for two false paths that bring no healing. The first is compassion without action. When we see a single parent exhausted in doing two jobs, we feel bad and say “I’m praying for you, call me if you need anything” and walk away. The single mom is still stressed. We feel good, but her wound remains open. That’s sentiment, not healing. The second is service without compassion. We volunteer at the soup kitchen to tick a box. We avoid eye contact, check our watch, and get annoyed at requests. The person served feels processed, not valued. There’s service, but no healing.

Jesus’ model is compassion that heals. For that single parent, offer grocery cards, free babysitting, or set up a meal train. That’s healing. At the soup kitchen, slow down. Smile. Make eye contact. Treat each person as a holy moment. That’s healing too.

Let us turn to the wisdom of the saints for more light on practical compassion. St. Augustine said: Give your heart before you give your bread, or your gift can’t heal. St. John Chrysostom warned us: The poor person outside is the altar of Christ. We can’t worship a healing Savior inside while ignoring His wounds on the street. St. Vincent de Paul reminds us that the poor can seem difficult. His advice was to “turn the medal” — on the other side of their hurt you’ll find the face of Jesus waiting to be healed.

Dear friends a broken world meets a healing Savior when we move from feeling to doing. All that we are and have are precious gifts from the Lord and like the gospel says we received them without pay hence let us give without pay. Jesus admonishes us that “The harvest is plentiful, but laborers are few. Pray the Lord of harvest to send laborers (healers) into His harvest. Can you be one?