



Sermon Discussion Guide




Exodus: A Compassionate People

Exodus 22:21-27

Ray Cortese, February 18 & 19, 2017

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Exodus 22:21-27. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Every organization has a culture of something. What was the last organization you were a part of, and what was its culture?
- 2 What was your one main/big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

A COMPASSIONATE PEOPLE APPROACH THE POOR WITH HUMILITY

- 3 How might you be tempted to complete this sentence: "I am not poor because I _____. " Why is it wrong to say that the poor are not hard workers?
- 4 Ray said, "We fail to learn from the poor; we need them more than they need us." What can we learn from the poor? Why do we need the poor? Do you know someone who is poor? How have you benefited from that relationship?

A COMPASSIONATE PEOPLE HEAR THE CRIES OF THE POOR

- 5 What keeps us from hearing the cries of the poor?
- 6 God cares for the widows and the fatherless. Do you? How?
- 7 Discuss the following quote by Brian Fickert.

North American Christians are simply not doing enough. We are the richest people ever to walk the face of the earth. Period. Yet, most of us live as though there is nothing terribly wrong in the world. We attend our kids' soccer games, pursue our careers, and take beach vacations while 40 percent of the world's inhabitants struggle just to eat every day. And in our own backyards, the homeless, those residing in ghettos, and a wave of immigrants live in a world outside the economic and social mainstream of North America. We do not necessarily need to feel guilty about our wealth. But we do need to get up every morning with a deep sense that something is terribly wrong with the world and yearn and strive to do something about it. There is simply not enough yearning and striving going on.

A COMPASSIONATE PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED COMPASSION

- 8 Why does duty always produce people who only do "the minimum"?
- 9 How would you respond to someone who says, "Why give to those who don't deserve it?"
- 10 Discuss what Ray said: "If you are not compassionate, it is because you haven't received compassion."

Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?