

## RESOURCES

### POVERTY

#### Worship Aids



## Poverty – Worship Aids

### SCRIPTURE

Psalm 140 (read as if from the perspective of the poor)

Deuteronomy 15:1-11

James 2:1-12

Mark 6:6-13 & 6:30-44

1 Timothy 5



## MUSIC

*All Praise to Thee* (Francis Tucker | Ralph Vaughan Williams, VU 327)

*Come, Holy Spirit* (Jacques Berthier, VU 208)

*God of comfort and compassion* (Doris Rendell, SASB 576)

*He came to give us life in all its fullness* (John Gowans, SASB 274)

*He Knows My Name* (Tommy Walker)

*Homeless People, Will You Listen?* (Walter Farquharson | Ron Klusmeier, VU 696)

*I Then Shall Live* (Gloria Gaither, tune: Finlandia)

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love* (Tom Colvin, VU 593)

*Just where He needs me* (Miriam Richards, SASB 706)

*O God, You Gave Your Servant John* (John Patterson, VU 718)

*Someone Cares* (John Gowans, SASB 238)

*The Church of Christ in Every Age* (Fred Pratt Green | James William Elliott, VU 601)

*The Servant Song* (Richard Gillard, VU 595)

*There's a Wildness in God's Mercy* (Frederick Faber | Johann Steiner, VU 271)

*We are the hands of Christ* (David Fraser, SASB 851)

*What a Friend* (Joseph Scriven, SASB 645, VU 664)

*Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life* (Frank Mason North, VU 681)

SASB – Salvation Army Song Book  
VU – Voices United

## PRAYER

One: Our father. Our loving, gracious, almighty father. God who is in Heaven. You are great. You are powerful. You are love. You amaze us. You made the earth and everything in it. We praise your name. We bless your name. We thank you for all you have done. We cannot thank you enough for all you have done. All your wonderful work.

All: *Your kingdom come. Your will be done. On earth as in heaven.*

One: Come God, Come. Come here. Come now. Come swiftly. And make this world your world. Rule here the way you rule in Heaven. Let your kingdom come in me. Let your kingdom come in us.

All: *Your kingdom come. Your will be done. On earth as in heaven.*

One: Give us the food we need to live through today. Give our friends the food they need to live through today. Give our enemies the food they need to live through today. Give our global neighbours the food they need to live through today. Give us all enough water to drink so that we can live to see tomorrow. Just enough Lord. Give us enough. Not more, but enough.

All: *Your kingdom come. Your will be done. On earth as in heaven.*

One: Forgive us God. Forgive us, weary sinners. Forgive us for not loving You the way we ought to. Forgive us for not loving others the way we ought to. Forgive us the ways we have ignored the poor and allowed their suffering to continue. Forgive us if we have added to their oppression. Help us to forgive those who have trespassed on our idea of a good society. Help us to forgive those who have wronged us, ignored us or added to our suffering. Forget our sins and help us forget the sins of others.

All: *Your kingdom come. Your will be done. On earth as in heaven.*

One: Keep us far away from temptation. Keep us far away from our vices. Keep us all far away from pride and greed, from whatever takes over our body and mind and spirit or tries to replace you in our lives. Let the things that entice us to disobey you be cast out so far that we cannot see them. Let the things that steal our souls be banished and forgotten.

All: *Your kingdom come. Your will be done. On earth as in heaven.*

One: Deliver us all from Satan God; and from the prison of our guilt and shame and sin. Deliver us all from the bondage of our brokenness. Let us be free. Free from

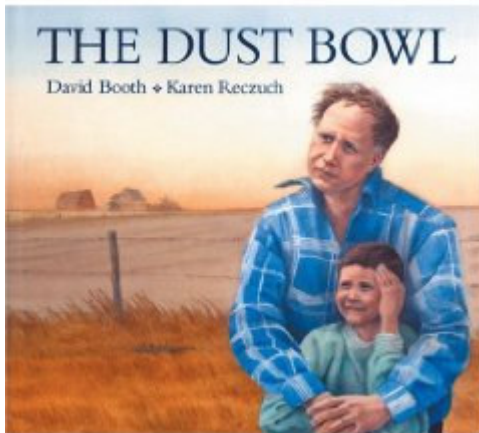
loneliness. Free from physical suffering and illness. Free from addiction. Free from poverty. Free from fear.

*All: Your kingdom come. Your will be done. On earth as in heaven.*

One: Glory is yours forever, God. Power is yours forever, God. Honour is yours forever God.

*All: Your kingdom come. Your will be done. On earth as in heaven. Amen*

## CHILDREN'S TIME



*The Dust Bowl*, by David Booth

This book tells the story of a farming family on the Canadian prairies who battle the elements to eek out a living. Reading the story in church will lend itself to a discussion of how different Canadian families live and the trouble some people have getting what they need to survive. We often think of poverty as an urban phenomenon – that poor people come to the cities to get jobs or to take advantages of a city's social services, but many people in rural areas are also impoverished. Children can understand from this story that there are many kinds of people

who do not always have enough to eat, money to buy knew things or a home to live in. You can tell the children that there are more than 2,000 verses in the Bible that mention the poor, which means that God must care very much about people who don't have enough. God mentions the poor so many times because he wants us to care about them too.

## SERMON

### Compassion

Prepared by Major Mike Hoeft, 23 January 2005

Text: Mark 6:6-13 & 6:30-44

### Introduction

Today we are going to think about the third Core Value of The Salvation Army, the virtue of Compassion.

- Jesus sends out the twelve (6:6-13)
- Return & report – excitement

#### 1. Jesus has Compassion for His Followers

##### a) **Christian Ministry has its rewards**

- i. Pastor, teacher, Local Officer, Corps Council Member
- ii. Salvation of souls
- iii. Personal fulfillment, satisfaction

##### b) **Christian ministry has its cost**

- i. Physical
    1. time, energy, could be doing something else, tired
  - ii. Mental
  - iii. Spiritual
    1. people are draining
- constant pouring out of yourself
  - not everyone will “rise up and called you blessed” they may well “rise up and call you names”
  - someone won’t like what you’re doing and will feel compelled to tell you about it.
    - o “you’re the poorest preacher he’s ever known”

##### c) **Jesus knew his followers needed time off**

- i. Encourages renewal (not retreat)
- ii. Get away to a quiet place
- iii. Change of venue
- iv. Every leader needs a sabbatical
- v. Productivity increases
- vi. Staves off frustration, grouchiness, burn out
- vii. “I’d rather burn out than rust out....I’d rather do neither”

## 2. Jesus has compassion for those who were seeking Him

### a) Those "outside" his group

- i. Those who followed him when he wanted to be alone
- ii. Who pestered him, wanted something from him, those whom he knew would abandon him when the going got tough
- iii. Easy to help friends, willingly help those who we think "deserve it", or who might in some way be able to repay us
- iv. Jesus says that when we give we should do so "not letting the right hand know what the left hand is doing." Those who give with the expectation of getting something in return have received all they are going to receive.
- v. Jesus sees these people who are there because he is popular, a hot ticket item, a star. He sees those who are only there because they think he might heal them or perform something extraordinary or say something controversial. He knows that many of them will turn tail and run at the first sign of trouble....BUT.....he has compassion, even for them.
- vi. Pretty easy to have compassion for our friends, family, people who go to church....but what about those living on the street, reek of booze, the prostitute, drug dealer and those who don't want anything to do with religion. Jesus said, "It is not the well that need a doctor, it is the sick." It is not only those within the walls of the church or those who we think somehow "deserve it" that we are to have compassion for.

Jesus **had** compassion, but more than that;

### b) Jesus "felt" compassion

- i. People can spot a phony, know when you are only helping because it's your job or duty.
- ii. People aren't stupid, they know when you don't really care
- iii. The plight of the crowd "**moved him**"
- iv. Story -----"I helped her cry"
- v. William Booth-----"Try tears"
- vi. True compassion requires.....love

#### (Core Value statement)

"God reaches out to every person in love. Our mission is always in response to that love. We strive to meet the needs of vulnerable groups and those overlooked or ignored in our communities."

That's the plan but.....

- vii. It's easy to become **"weary in well doing"**
  - harden our heart
  - become calloused, cynical
  - Young Offenders Home-----took me 6 months to stop questioning everyone's motives
- viii. images on our t.v. screen
  - tsunami
  - World Vision
  - Poverty
  - Tragedy
- ix. do we "feel" compassion? Or has our heart grown cold and hard?

God says to the people of Israel, who had become calloused towards him, **"I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh."**

Perhaps today, we need to pray to God and ask him to replace our calloused heart with one "keen to feel".

- a heart that senses the needs of others
- a heart that feels another's pain
- a heart that is tender

**c) Jesus "felt" their needs and was willing to change his plans because**

- i. Compassion is often not convenient

People may need you;

- evening
- weekends
- during meals
- when you're tired, have other plans, in a hurry.
- "What about Bob?" Movie
- Jesus wanted to take his disciples away for some rest but when they pulled the boat up on shore.....who was there to greet him? More people! Wanting yet another piece of him.

Who would have blamed Jesus if he put on sunglasses and tried to go incognito? Who would have blamed him if he told them to make an appointment and he would see them on Monday? Who could have said anything against him if he turned the boat around and headed for another shore?

But we see that even though it wasn't in the plan.....

**ii. Jesus reaches out**

- to those in need
- **"like sheep without a shepherd"**
- to those who didn't deserve it



- when it wasn't convenient

We see that Jesus HAD compassion. He **FELT** compassion but then we see that

3. **He SHOWED Compassion** - He did something

It's easy to **have** compassion, it's often easy to "**feel**" compassion but those two things don't amount to a hill of beans unless we go ahead and **do something about it!**

a) **He taught them**

- i. What? – I don't know.
- ii. Jesus was popular, he was in demand, people wanted to hear him. Presumably he told them to do certain things and not do other things. They were so enraptured that the time seemed to melt away. They didn't even realize that they were getting hungry, but Jesus knew what every good preacher knows, that people will only listen until they are distracted by their stomachs.

b) **He Fed Them**

- Compassion is not only cerebral
- Compassion is not only emotional
- Compassion is practical

**Core Value Part two** – "When needed, we will stand for (the needy) and advocate on their behalf. We accept that showing compassion may threaten those who benefit from present arrangements of power. Our desire is for God to work through our ministries to renew broken families, empower the poor and transform neighbourhoods."

- Standing up against the Casino
- Compassion is;
  - o Accepting the criticism
  - o Taking risks
  - o Standing up for the underdog
  - o Getting in the thick of things
  - o Even when it is costly

God wants us to **have** compassion, he wants us to **feel** compassion but mostly, he wants us to **show** compassion.

There are people in our world who need you;

- lonely
- hurting
- needy
- desperate
- lost people

They are not always nice, clean, deserving or appreciative.....they have gone astray and they need you to show them the way home.

Will you be the hands, the feet and the mouth of God?

SASB 527

Except I am moved with compassion

How dwelleth Thy spirit in me

In word and in deed

Burning love is my need

I know I can find this in Thee