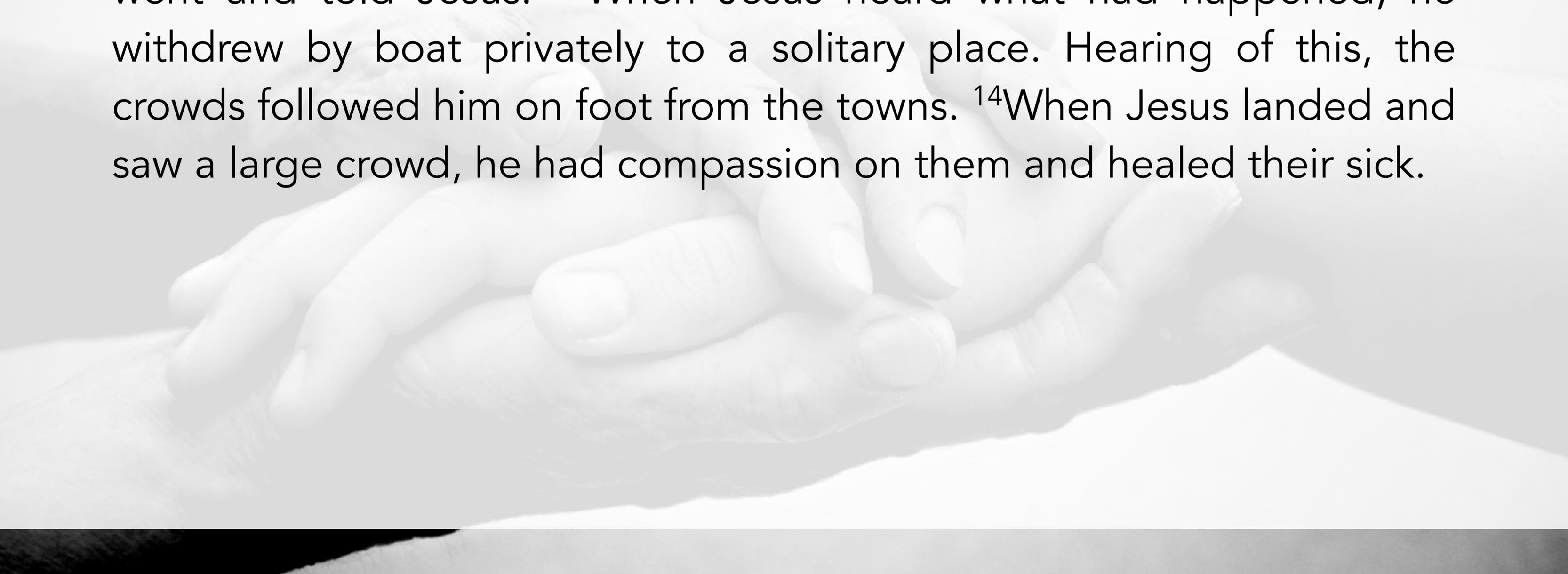


The Gift of Mercy



Matthew 14:12-14

¹²John's disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus. ¹³When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.



mercy = valuing others to the point of self-sacrificially meeting their needs in a compassionate and loving way



The Worldview of Mercy

Matthew 9:10-13 — ¹⁰While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹²On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

The worldview of mercy says, "You and I are the same - deeply in need of God - and, by his grace, I would like to serve you because you matter."

You May Have a Mercy Gifting if...

- You are inspired to value those whom our society does not
- You frequently imagine what life would be like in another's shoes
- People in need seem to find you and you seem to find them
- You proactively look for ways to use your God-given resources (i.e. time, talent, and treasure) to be a blessing to others
- You have a high tolerance for drama, ugliness, and suffering
- You can often discern people's needs even when they do not state them
- People have often expressed gratitude for your generosity and compassion

So You Have the Gift of Mercy

- Pray for God to guide you to the specific group he has called you to serve
- Volunteer with a ministry or non-profit serving the population God has placed on your heart
- Find a mercy mentor
- Become someone's mercy mentor
- With your loved ones, define your limits, "lines in the sand," and sabbaths
- Take steps to ensure you stay balanced (i.e. prayer, studying Scripture, an accountability partner, etc.)