

Compassion Sunday Skit: *Two Breads. Three Worlds*

CAST LIST:

Narrator

World A: affluent Christianity

World B: local mission field

World C: global mission field

Bread Deliverer: God's blessings in action

Extras: several random people placed throughout the audience and/or backstage

LIVE SEGMENT

NARRATOR: Bread is a power-packed symbol in the New Testament. When Jesus spoke of “our daily bread” in the Lord’s Prayer, He was referring to food and the basic resources we all need for survival. But there is also bread of another kind. Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty” (John 6:35). We all share a critical need for these two types of bread — bread for our bodies and the Bread of Life for our souls and salvation.

In the Great Commission and the Great Commandment, Christ called His Church — that’s us — to help make sure that everyone has equal access to these two life-giving breads. Remember? Go into all the world and preach the gospel, and love your neighbor as yourself. So, how are we doing? Sadly, our bread distribution efforts have become a little disjointed. Instead of seeing our bread equally distributed to everyone, we find ourselves divided into three distinct worlds of people. Let’s call these three worlds A, B and C.

As THE NARRATOR begins to speak of the three worlds, three actors enter, representing WORLD A, WORLD B and WORLD C. They stand spaced apart on stage, on different platforms. Soon, a bread delivery person walks in, carrying armfuls (or a cart full) of bread and begins delivering bread to the three worlds.

BREAD DELIVERER: Bread delivery! Blessings from God.

As the narrator speaks, the delivery person checks a delivery clipboard and begins to unload piles of bread at the feet of WORLD A. WORLD A happily receives the bread, arranging piles around himself, enjoying the new bread. Eventually, the delivery person checks his clipboard again as he passes by WORLD B and, without stopping, tosses WORLD B one slice of bread. He checks the clipboard again and completely passes by WORLD C, without leaving any bread at all.

THE NARRATOR: World A is the world of affluent Christianity. Believers in this world have received the Bread of Life — that’s Jesus — but also have an overabundance of material wealth — that “daily bread” Jesus talks about in the Lord’s Prayer. I live in this world. I have more than enough money, food, clothing and possessions to make life comfortable, but do I really have a desire to share what I have with others who struggle day to day, just to survive? What does my world look like to others who have need?

WORLD A: Bread? I have bread; all kinds of it. I have the Bread of Life and I have God's bread of blessings all around me. What can I say? I'm a child of promise. I work hard, I live right and I guess I *deserve* to be rewarded. I can't help it if poor people don't want to work or try to make something of themselves. It's none of my business. And after all, the rest of the world is in God's hands, not mine. All I know is, my world's just fine.

THE NARRATOR: Then, there is World B: people around us and in the community who struggle through life, surrounded by opportunity and available resources, but who are unable or simply unwilling to change. Some face difficult struggles — they've been abused, abandoned or neglected. Others simply aren't interested. But they all need Jesus.

WORLD B: Free? OK. (*Takes a piece of bread and holds it nervously.*) But no strings attached. I'm my own person. I can make it on my own.

THE NARRATOR: And then, there's World C: a world of extreme poverty, need and neglect that few of us can even imagine. It's a world where nearly 27,000 small children die every day from mostly preventable causes. A world where a typical family of six lives on less than a dollar a day. It's a world where the Bread of Life and one's daily bread are hard to find.

WORLD C: Bread? You have bread? *Extra* bread? And a Bread of Life? What's that?

THE NARRATOR: Why does one world have so much bread and another have so little? What do we know about God and His heart for the people He's created? Doesn't He want "all the world" to know of His love and provision? Maybe the next bread delivery, things will become more clear.

BREAD DELIVERER: Bread delivery! Here it comes!

DELIVERER checks the clipboard and again dumps piles of bread at the feet of WORLD A.

THE NARRATOR: The people in World A can take as much bread as they want, whenever they want.

WORLD A: Whoa! More blessing! Thank You, Lord. I feel so blessed. But what should I do with it all? I know. I'll bless my friends. I'll give them Christian books and Christian music CDs, and we can go to Christian movies and wear matching Christian T-shirts. Maybe we should go on a Christian retreat to the mountains and be dually blessed!

THE NARRATOR: On the other hand, the people in World B have access to the bread, but they just don't want it.

DELIVERER checks his clipboard and drops a couple slices of bread at the feet of WORLD B.

WORLD B: More? Well, it's enough to help me get by. But that Life Bread stuff. I don't know. I'm not religious.

THE NARRATOR: And then, there's World C. Sadly, many highly motivated, educated people live in countries that are rife with corruption, political oppression or both. In many ways the people in World C are captives. They are held captive by geography, governments, corruption or family traditions. One

way or another, they are starving — both physically and spiritually — while the other two worlds can feast whenever they choose.

WORLD C: *Daily* bread? I've only caught a glimpse of a few crumbs. I guess I'm too far away, or the obstacles to reach me are just too large to overcome — or maybe the people who have so much bread just don't care. Do they know how desperate I am?

THE NARRATOR: So, what's wrong with this picture of our three worlds? Is there something wrong with God's delivery plan?

DELIVERER enters with armloads of sliced bread.

BREAD DELIVERER: Special delivery! More bread!

DELIVERER pours another huge load of bread over the head of WORLD A and completely passes by WORLDS B and C. WORLD A sits/falls down in the bread pile and scoops it up, fully immersed in it.

WORLD A: Oh, wow! More blessings! Thank You, Lord. This is too much. I may need to rent another storage unit. But the bread might get stale. Or maybe I could trade some of this for a new big screen TV for the church. Lord, tell me what to do. I just want to be Your servant. So, tell me what You want me to do. Just let me know.

THE NARRATOR: The point is, God *has* told us what to do with His blessings — pass them on! He hasn't showered us with blessings because we deserve them, He's given us all the resources we need in order to help others who have little or nothing of the two breads we have so much of! We pass some of the bread on to people who aren't even hungry — who throw it right back in our faces — while a forgotten world starves!

LIGHTING DIRECTION: A pool of light falls on WORLD C, alone. WORLD C pleads to the audience.

WORLD C: What about me? Please — help. Someone? Anyone? Please, help me.

The three actors stand still and silent. LIGHTS DIM on all but THE NARRATOR.

THE NARRATOR: On stage here, our World C is simply represented as one man without bread. But in the real world, this one man represents millions of people who are locked in a life-and-death struggle with poverty and pain. And the most vulnerable among them are the children. Consider the contrasts between the following facts about the developing world, and the calls to action God has given for us to offer help to those in desperate need:

Display the following facts and Bible verses on an overhead screen for emphasis, as the NARRATOR reads through them.

FACT: Before today is over, nearly 27,000 children under the age of 5 will die from preventable diseases and related causes.

GOD:

“Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy” (Psalm 82:3-4).

FACT: More than 143 million children younger than 5 in developing countries are malnourished; 93 million do not attend school.

GOD:

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy” (Proverbs 31:8-9).

FACT: Americans spend more than \$2 billion per year on chewing gum — eight times more than they gave to children in need globally, through UNICEF, in 2005.

GOD:

“If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth” (1 John 3:17-18).

THE NARRATOR: The statistics on the screen tell a story of spiritual poverty contrasted with an over-abundance of spiritual and material wealth. It’s a story we all need to hear because we have the power and God’s command to change it. And the Bible verses? Did you know there are more than 2,000 scriptures describing God’s heart for the poor and our responsibility to serve them? So who in the world needs the Bread of Life more than the millions of people who are starved in body and spirit? We have the Bread of Life and our daily bread in abundance, and God has commanded that we share this with the rest of the world. What will we do next?

STAGE DIRECTION: As THE NARRATOR speaks his last lines, have it prearranged for people in the audience or backstage to join the actor representing WORLD A. Together, they gather up piles of bread and take it over to WORLD C, where they pile it up at the actor’s feet. When WORLD C is surrounded by people and piles of bread, the lights fade to signal the skit’s end.

Statistics:

FACT #1. <http://www.childinfo.org/mortality.html>

FACT #2. <http://www.childinfo.org/education.html>; <http://www.childinfo.org/undernutrition.html>

FACT #3. <http://www.heartlandscience.org/agrifood/gum.htm> / <http://www.unicef.org/about/annualreport/2005/finances/income.html>