

SERIES: IN PURSUIT OF SOULS

TITLE: COMPASSIONATE SOULS

Wheeler – 2023.10.22 PM – GSE

INTRODUCTION:

- **Jude 22** – “on some have compassion” → show compassion! Needs to be shown in our actions
 - Compassion = to have great affection and compassion for someone, to have pity, to feel sympathy
 - Seen in showing kindness to others
 - Great OT example of this is David’s kindness to Mephibosheth, a descendant of former king Saul
- **John 13:35** – “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
 - Agape love is defined pretty clearly in **1 Cor. 13:3-7** – “Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”
 - “kind” = to show mercy, to be useful to another
 - **Eph. 4:32** – “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted...”
 - **4:1-2** – “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech

you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,”

- If we are to be known by our love, then it must be shown by our compassion, our willingness to help the downtrodden, the defeated, the hopeless
 - **Lk. 10:33** – “But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion.”
- Our Lord was compassionate, he truly cared about souls!
 - **Mt. 9:36** – “But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.
 - **14:14** – “And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.”
 - He has a heart toward the suffering!

JESUS SHOWED COMPASSION...

I. ...BY GIVING FOOD TO EAT

- when He gave them food to eat

- **Matt. 14:13-21** – “When Jesus heard it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities. And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food.” But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” And they said to Him, “We have here only five loaves and two fish.” He said, “Bring them here to Me.” Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.”
- **Mk. 8:1-9**
- We can show our compassion the same way Jesus did: by giving people food to eat

II. ...BY SPEAKING COMFORTING WORDS

- **Lk. 7:11-16** – “Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His

disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people."

- **8:49-56** – "While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher." But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well." When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead. But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise." Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And

He commanded that she be given something to eat. And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.”

- **Jn. 11:4** – “When Jesus heard that, He said, ‘This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.’ ”
 - **v. 11** – “These things He said, and after that He said to them, ‘Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up.’ ”
 - **v. 23** – “Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ ”
 - **v. 25-26** – “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?’ ”

- Out of His compassion, He taught them
 - **Mt. 9:36** – “But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.”
 - **Mk. 6:34** – “And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.”
 - **Lk. 9:11** – “But when the multitudes knew it, they followed Him; and He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of

God, and healed those who had need of healing.”

- If we want to show compassion to souls, we must use comforting words: the ultimate words of comfort are the words of the Gospel

III. ...HE HEALED

- **Mk. 1:41-42** – “Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, “I am willing; be cleansed.” As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed.”
- **Matt. 20:32-34** – “So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, “What do you want Me to do for you?” They said to Him, “Lord, that our eyes may be opened.” So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.”
- Its easy to have compassion on family & most of our close friends
 - But acquaintances, strangers, enemies are where we are truly tested on this idea
 - When having compassion on this person who can do nothing for us, meaning there’s no physical gain
- **Mk. 9:14-27**
- **Jms. 5:15-16** – “And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one

another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

- Keep in mind that James is speaking to a church that had miraculous powers of healing
- The application for us today is still to pray
 - Also, pray for spiritual healing

IV. ...HE FORGAVE

- **Mk. 2:5** – “When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven you.’ ”
- **Lk. 7:47-48** – “Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.” Then He said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”
 - **Lk. 23:34** – “Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” And they divided His garments and cast lots.”
- **Mic. 7:19** – “He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea.”
- **Psa. 78:38** – “But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, And did not destroy them. Yes, many a time He turned His anger away, And did not stir up all His wrath;”
- **Matt. 6:12, 14-15** – “And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors... “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also

forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

- **Eph. 4:32** – “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.”

CONCLUSION:

- **1 Jn. 3:17** – “But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”
- Jesus was known for his love b/c in part due to his acting on His compassion for souls
 - What will you do to be sure you are known by your love & compassion this week? This month? This upcoming holiday season?
 - Is there someone you know you can help?
 - Will you be looking for opportunities to?

INVITATION: ARE YOU FORGIVEN?

- If you are not a Xian, the ONLY way to be forgiven of your sins, to be healed spiritually, is to be in Christ
 - To be in Christ, you must be baptized in water; the water is ready if you are
- If you are a Xian, you have access to God through prayer if you are willing to repent and confess, He is faithful & just to forgive us (**1 Jn. 1:7-9**)