



The Compassion of Christ

Introduction

"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd."

Matthew 9:36

"What the world needs now is love sweet love, it's the only thing that there's just too little of.."

Those are the opening words from a 1966 song recorded by Dionne Warwick, written by Burt Bacharach and Hal David. I think we would all agree that those words ring as true today, as any time in our lifetime. The world *does* need love, but not as the world typically defines it. We need the love of Jesus Christ; his care, concern; his compassion.

In this class we will be taking a close look at the compassion of Christ with one main aim: *to put it into practice in our daily lives for the benefit of others.*

Objectives

- I. We'll define compassion primarily by the actions and words of Jesus.**
- II. We'll identify the specific needs of our brethren and people in the world who need our compassion.**
- III. We'll learn how to put the compassion of Jesus into practice in our efforts to meet those needs.**

Questions that we'll address in this class

1. What is compassion?
2. What are some common substitutes for real compassion?
3. How did Jesus demonstrate it?
4. What did Jesus say about it?
5. What does the Old Testament say about it? What do New Testament writers say about it?
6. Why do we all need compassion?
7. How do we show compassion to others (generally, in every day life)?
8. What are some of the most pressing needs of our brethren?
9. What are some of the most pressing needs of people in the world?
10. How do we address those needs, specifically?
11. Please share other questions that you may have about how we turn compassion into action, including some of the challenges.

Survey

Questions

1. Define "compassion" in your own words.
2. What are the essential characteristics of a compassionate person?
3. What is the difference, if any, between "love" and "compassion"?
4. What is your favorite event in the New Testament that demonstrates Christ's compassion? Why?
5. How is true compassion expressed (put into action)?
6. Would you say that compassion is a common characteristic of our world today?
7. What are some common substitutes for real compassion; i.e., what kinds of things do we sometimes do that make us feel compassionate but are not, in reality, acts that imitate Christ's compassion?
8. When we take compassion out of the classroom and into the real world, what kinds of questions challenge us?

Defining Compassion

When defining "compassion," as used in Scripture, we are on safest ground when defining the word by the actions of God or Christ, or others who are carrying out actions that are commensurate with the compassion of God or Christ (e.g., the good Samaritan, or the father of the prodigal son, in Jesus' parables).

Our main aim in this study will be to examine the actions that demonstrate compassion or affection (*splankna*, *splanknazomai*) and love (*agape*, *phileo*, *philadelphia*, *storge*). As a starting place, it is helpful to examine the words in Greek and English. However, in several cases, these words are not used in the text, but the action or teaching reflects compassion. Examples are Luke 19:41 ("*And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it*") and Hebrews 4:15 ("*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin*"). In the latter case, a synonym for compassion — "sympathize" — is used to describe Christ's attitude.

The Greek word, often translated "compassion" or "affection," is particularly interesting. The root word is *splankna*. In the Old Testament, the equivalent Hebrew word, *racham*, has a similar meaning (see Genesis 43:30). The meaning is not fully captured in the English with the use of the words "compassion" or "affection." As you can see below, it refers to the "innards" of one's body and, thus, in the KJV, it is translated "bowels" nine times (e.g., Philippians 1:8, "*For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.*"). Don't be too shocked at that wording; we would say, "I long for you from the bottom of my heart" — think about what's at the bottom of your heart. I'm told that in the Persian language they say, translated into English, "I love you with my liver."

It's quite a picturesque term, but we'll stick with "compassion."

DP

Word Study

English

noun: *compassion*; plural noun: *compassions*

sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others: "the victims should be treated with compassion."

Synonyms:

pity, sympathy, empathy, fellow feeling, care, concern, solicitude, sensitivity, warmth, love, tenderness, mercy, leniency, tolerance, kindness, humanity, charity "have you no compassion for a fellow human being?"

Antonyms: indifference, cruelty

Origin: Middle English: via Old French from ecclesiastical Latin *compassio(n)-*, from *compati* 'suffer with.'

Greek

splanchnizomai | σπλαγχνίζομαι Strong's #4697

Definition: verb – to be moved with pity, or compassion, Mt. 9:36; 14:14; 20:34; Lk. 7:13; to be compassionate, Mt. 18:27

Frequency in New Testament: 12

Root: *splanknon* | σπλάγχνον, ου, τό Strong's #4698

Definition: noun – the chief intestines, viscera; the entrails, bowels, Acts 1:18; met. the heart, the affections of the heart, the tender affections, Lk. 1:78; 2Cor. 6:12; 7:15; Phil. 1:8, 2:1; Col. 3:12; Philemon 7, 20; 1Jn. 3:17; metonymy: a cherished one, dear as one's self, Philemon 12

"Heart" in the New Testament

kardia

In both the Old Testament and the New Testament the word "heart" is used to refer to the whole of the innermost part of the human, *not* merely the emotions. It's important to keep this in mind since, in America, the term "heart," when used figuratively, almost always means "emotions." For example, we talk about pulling one's "heartstrings" or how something "touched my heart." The Greek word, *kardia*, is the center of the physical, mental, and spiritual life of humans. This contrasts to the normal use of *kardia* in Greek literature outside the Scriptures. The New Testament follows the Old Testament usage when referring to the human heart in that it gives *kardia* a wider range of meaning than it was generally accustomed to have. It refers to emotions, but also, generally, the mind and the will as well.

Self-Study

Exercise 1

Read the texts below and note what Jesus does in connection with his compassion (*splanknizomai*). Don't be too concerned with the larger context at this point since we'll be looking at most of these texts in some detail during the quarter.

1. Matthew 9:36-38 (Mark 6:34) –
2. Matthew 14:14 –
3. Matthew 15:32 (Mark 8:2) –
4. Matthew 20:34 –
5. Mark 1:41 –
6. Luke 7:13-14 –

Exercise 2

Read the texts below. All use the word *splankna*. Which English word(s) is used to translate *splankna* in each text? What lessons about compassion can we gather from the use of this word?

- Luke 1:78; Acts 1:18; II Corinthians 6:12; 7:15; Philippians 1:8; 2:1; Colossians 3:12; Philemon 1:7, 12, 20; I John 3:17.

Exercise 3

What other words or actions recorded in the New Testament describe the compassion of Christ?

Lesson I

"The God of the Towel"*

Our first look at an event which demonstrates the compassion of Jesus is recorded in John 13 – a passage that doesn't even use the word. However, what Jesus does here, in his last hours before his crucifixion, is a great example of his compassion. The space John allots to it tells us that there is much to learn from this event, so we'll examine it in some detail. *dp*

Read John 13:1-17, 34-35

Observation Questions

1. What does "having loved them to the end" mean? (The Greek word for "end" is *telos*, Strong's #5056).
2. What did Jesus actually *do*?
3. What was unusual about what he did?
4. What was Peter reaction? Why?
5. How did Jesus respond to Peter? Why?
6. How does Jesus explain what he did? What was the point?
7. Was Jesus establishing a law that disciples should, *literally*, wash each others' feet? How do we know?
8. Is there any significance in where John (by the Holy Spirit) places this event in the gospel record?

Notes on the Text

*There are a couple of books by this title that examine the compassion of Jesus using this text as a starting point. One is by Jim McGuigan (1997).

Application

1. What does this story say about Jesus?
2. Does this story illustrate "compassion"? If so, how?
3. What other options might Jesus have used to teach his lesson?
4. As Jesus washed the feet of the disciples, did he skip anyone? Why is your answer important?
5. Define the word "serve"? What is a "servant"?
6. List some practical ways that we can follow Jesus' command that "you also should do just as I have done to you" (v. 15).



A Oldie but Goodie: A Story About Compassion

A 3 year-old girl, Liza, was dying from rare blood disease. Her only hope was to receive a blood transfusion. Since her 7-year old brother, Joey, had survived the same illness, and built up the antibodies needed to defeat the disease, the doctors planned to use his blood to save his sister. The doctor explained the procedure to little brother. He hesitated for just a moment, took a deep breath and said, "Yes I'll do it, if it will save Liza."

The transfusion was complete. Joey was lying next to his sister and as the color returned to her cheeks, Joey's face grew pale. He looked at the doctor and his parents and said, in a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?"

Joey misunderstood "transfusion," but understood "compassion."

Lesson II

"Like sheep without a shepherd"

Build a profile of Christ's compassion

What have we learned, so far, about the compassion of Christ, from the account in John 13? List his attributes:

Read Matthew 9:35-38 (Mark 6:34ff.)

What is going on here? Describe the situation. Who is criticized or approved (if applicable)? What action was called for, if any? What words were spoken? What was the tone (if it's possible to discern)? What was the response to Jesus' action?

Write out some questions that occur to you as you read this text (either about the text itself or about how to apply it).

What does this text add to our knowledge about the compassion of Christ? What did Jesus say, do or think? Why?

Update the profile of Christ (John 13 + Matthew 9:35-38)

Application

Build your own profile*

* Put yourself in the sandals of Jesus. Be brutally honest with yourself. Think of a similar situation that you have been involved in. What action was called for, if any? What did you think, do, say? What else could you have done? What *should* you have done? Are you satisfied with how you responded to that situation? Or are you "kicking yourself"? (That's OK; it shows you care).

❖ ***To what extent does your profile match the profile of Christ so far?***

Application

Lets begin to identify the kinds of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual stress that fellow travelers in our world or church suffer from:

Physical	Mental	Emotional	Spiritual

Application Questions to Think About*

Include scriptural support for your answers, if applicable. And, add some questions of your own.

1. Generally, who is "worthy" of our help?
2. Are there any people we should *never* help?
3. Assuming limited resources, is there a *priority* we should observe in WHO we help? If so, what is that priority?
4. The kinds of help we should we give depends on the circumstances. Give some thought to matching the form of assistance with the problem.
5. When should we help someone?
6. Are there times when we should consider ending our assistance? If so, when?
7. To what extent should we question our motives in giving? What are some possible motives?
8. Should we think locally, community, nationally or globally in our concern for those who need help?
9. Brainstorm some ways we can help those in need.
10. Is there ever a time when you should tell someone to "snap out of it"? Why or why not?
11. How should we deal with sin problems compared to problems that are not brought on by sin?
12. Should every Christian be giving to at least one charitable organization? Why or why not?
13. To what extent, if any, should we keep abreast of what is going on in third world countries? Why?
14. What is the place of prayer in helping others? What should we pray for?
15. What is *one best thing* we can do for anyone, regardless of their circumstances?
16. Distinguish between our individual responsibility to help others vs. collective responsibility (e.g., what it the church authorized to do with its funds and the things elders oversee? Are there limits?).

*These are questions, along with some others, that we will address throughout the quarter.

Lesson III

"You go, and do likewise"

Build a profile of Christ's compassion

What have we learned, so far, about the compassion of Christ, from the account in John 13 & Matthew 9:35-38? List his attributes:

Read Luke 10:25-37 (Parable of the Good Samaritan)

What is going on here? Describe the situation. Who is criticized or approved (if applicable)? What action was called for, if any? What words were spoken? What was the tone (if it's possible to discern)? What was the response to Jesus' action?

Write out some questions that occur to you as you read this text (either about the text itself or about how to apply it).

What does this text add to our knowledge about the compassion of Christ? What did Jesus say, do or think? Why?

Update the profile of Christ (John 13 + Matthew 9:35-38 + Luke 10:25-37)

Make it Stick

Build your own profile*

* Put yourself in the sandals of Jesus. Be brutally honest with yourself. Think of a similar situation that you have been involved in. What action was called for, if any? What did you think, do, say? What else could you have done? What *should* you have done? Are you satisfied with how you responded to that situation? Or are you "kicking yourself"? (That's OK; it shows you care).

❖ ***To what extent does your profile match the profile of Christ so far?***

Make it Stick: Luke 10:25-37

As you read this story, who is, are or should be the object(s) of your compassion? Why?

Using the categories on the application worksheet (physical, mental, emotional, spiritual) describe the plight of the man who was robbed. How about the "plight" of the lawyer, and the Levite and priest in the story? Do you have compassion for any of them? Why?

Does it address any of the **application questions to think about** below (and on page 8)?

What other application questions come to mind as you consider Jesus' approach to the lawyer's question?

Jesus said "go and do likewise." The literal meaning is, if you see a man who has been beaten, robbed and left half-dead lying by the side of the road, you should stop and help him. But how likely is it that you'll ever? What are some legitimate extended applications?

Application Questions to Think About*

Include scriptural support for your answers, if applicable. And, add some questions of your own.

1. Generally, who is "worthy" of our help?
2. Are there any people we should *never* help?
3. Assuming limited resources, is there a *priority* we should observe in WHO we help? If so, what is that priority?
4. The kinds of help we should we give depends on the circumstances. Give some thought to matching the form of assistance with the problem.
5. When should we help someone?
6. Are there times when we should consider ending our assistance? If so, when?
7. To what extent should we question our motives in giving? What are some possible motives?
8. Should we think locally, community, nationally or globally in our concern for those who need help?
9. Brainstorm some ways we can help those in need.
10. Is there ever a time when you should tell someone to "snap out of it"? Why or why not?
11. How should we deal with sin problems compared to problems that are not brought on by sin?
12. Should every Christian be giving to at least one charitable organization? Why or why not?
13. To what extent, if any, should we keep abreast of what is going on in third world countries? Why?
14. What is the place of prayer in helping others? What should we pray for?
15. What is *one best thing* we can do for anyone, regardless of their circumstances?
16. Distinguish between our individual responsibility to help others vs. collective responsibility (e.g., what is the church authorized to do with its funds and the things elders oversee? Are there limits?).

*These are questions, along with some others, that we will address throughout the quarter.

Christ's Compassion and Character

Text: The Compassion of Christ	Action
Matthew 9:36, "when he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them...sheep without a shepherd... harassed and helpless"	Pray...go...heal, cleanse, cast out demons... stay with a "worthy house"...
Matthew 14:14, "...he saw a great crowd; I and he had compassion on them..."	Healed their sick...fed them
Matthew 18:27, (Parable) "moved with compassion, the master of that servant..."	"...released him and forgave him the debt." V. 33, "... should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant as I had mercy on you?"
Matthew 20:34, "with compassion..."	"touched their eyes... received sight">
Mark 1:41, "moved with compassion (pity, ESV)" (leper)	"be made clean" Sternly warned him...
Mark 6:34, saw large crowd, had compassion...sheep without a shepherd..."	"began to teach..."
Mark 8:2, compassion because they have stayed with me three days already and have nothing to eat..."	Fed them...
Luke 7:13, "seeing her, the Lord had compassion on her..." (widow's with son who had died)	said, "do not weep," then raised the son, gave him to his mother.
Luke 10:33, Samaritan had compassion for man who had been robbed and beaten	Took care of him...
Luke 15:20, (Prodigal son), father was filled with compassion...	Ran to him, kissed him, gave him and coat and a party
John 11:35, "Jesus wept." (death of Lazarus)	Raised him from the dead
II Cor. 8:9 "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ..."	"...that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich."

The Compassionate Character of Christ

Matthew 12:19-21 (Isaiah 42:2-3)

He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets; a bruised reed he will not break and a smoldering wick he will not quench until he brings justice to victory; and in his name the Gentiles will hope."

Matthew 23:37, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!"

Luke 19:41, "When he approached Jerusalem, he saw the city and wept over it."

Hebrews 2:17, "Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 4:15, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin."

Lesson IV

"His father saw him and had compassion..."

Read Luke 15:11-32 (Parable of the Prodigal Son)

What is going on here? Describe the situation. Who is criticized or approved? What action was called for, if any? What words were spoken? What was the tone (if it's possible to discern)? What was the response to Jesus' words or action?

Write out some questions that occur to you as you read this text (either about the text itself or about how to apply it).

What does this text add to our knowledge about the compassion of Christ? What did Jesus say, do or think? Why?

Update the profile of Christ (John 13 + Matthew 9:35-38 + Luke 10:25-37 + Luke 15:11-32)

Make it Stick

Check the *application* questions on page 10 and write out a few of your own:

Build your own profile*

* Put yourself in the sandals of Jesus. Be brutally honest with yourself. Think of a similar situation that you have been involved in. What action was called for, if any? What did you think, do, say? What else could you have done? What *should* you have done? Are you satisfied with how you responded to that situation? Or are you "kicking yourself"? (That's OK; it shows you care).

❖ *To what extent does your profile match the profile of Christ so far?*

Application Questions to Think About

Include scriptural support for your answers, if applicable. And, add some questions of your own.

Questions I (from page 8 or 10)

1. Generally, who is "worthy" of our help?
2. Are there any people we should *never* help?
3. Assuming limited resources, is there a *priority* we should observe in WHO we help? If so, what is that priority?
4. The kinds of help we should give depends on the circumstances. Give some thought to matching the form of assistance with the problem.
5. When should we help someone?
6. Are there times when we should consider ending our assistance? If so, when?
7. To what extent should we question our motives in giving? What are some possible motives?
8. Should we think locally, community, nationally or globally in our concern for those who need help?
9. Brainstorm some ways we can help those in need.
10. Is there ever a time when you should tell someone to "snap out of it"? Why or why not?
11. How should we deal with sin problems compared to problems that are not brought on by sin?
12. Should every Christian be giving to at least one charitable organization? Why or why not?
13. To what extent, if any, should we keep abreast of what is going on in third world countries? Why?
14. What is the place of prayer in helping others? What should we pray for?
15. What is *one best thing* we can do for anyone, regardless of their circumstances?
16. Distinguish between our individual responsibility to help others vs. collective responsibility (e.g., what is the church authorized to do with its funds and the things elders oversee? Are there limits?).

Lesson V

"Mercy Triumphs Over Judgment"

Read James 2:1-13 (cf. Matthew 7:1-6; John 7:24)

What is going on here? Describe the situation. Who is criticized or approved? What action was called for, if any? What words were spoken? What was the tone (if it's possible to discern)? What is the main point of the story?

Write out some questions that occur to you as you read this text (either about the text itself or about how to apply it).

What does this text add to our knowledge about the compassion of Christ? What did Jesus say, do or think? Why?

Update the profile of Christ (John 13 + Matthew 9:35-38 + Luke 10:25-37 + Luke 15:11-32 + James 2:1-3).

Make it Stick

Check the *application* questions on page 10 and write out a few of your own:

Build your own profile*

* Put yourself in the sandals of Jesus. Be brutally honest with yourself. Think of a similar situation that you have been involved in. What action was called for, if any? What did you think, do, say? What else could you have done? What *should* you have done? Are you satisfied with how you responded to that situation? Or are you "kicking yourself"? (That's OK; it shows you care).

❖ ***To what extent does your profile match the profile of Christ so far?***

Lesson VI

"Logs and Specks..."

Read Matthew 7:1-6

What is going on here? Describe the situation. Who is criticized or approved? What action was called for, if any? What words were spoken? What was the tone (if it's possible to discern)? What is the main point of the story?

1. What is Jesus' main point about judging?
2. What does he say that should cause all of us to reconsider how and why we judge others?
3. What is the "casting your pearls before swine" statement teaching us?
4. Is all judgment excluded, period? If not, what are some examples of proper judgment? Are there some other, less inflammatory, words that describe what we should do?

What does this text add to our knowledge about the compassion of Christ? What did Jesus say, do or think? Why?

Update the profile of Christ (John 13 + Matthew 9:35-38 + Luke 10:25-37 + Luke 15:11-32 + James 2:1-13; Matthew 7:1-6).

Make it Stick

What are some personal application questions that come to mind?

Build your own profile*

* Put yourself in the sandals of Jesus. Be brutally honest with yourself. Think of a similar situation that you have been involved in. What action was called for, if any? What did you think, do, say? What else could you have done? What *should* you have done? Are you satisfied with how you responded to that situation? Or are you "kicking yourself"? (That's OK; it shows you care).

❖ **To what extent does your profile match the profile of Christ so far?**

Lesson VII

“a bruised reed he will not break”

Matthew 12:18-21; see Isaiah 42:1-4

1. What are this passage affirming about Jesus? (cf. Isaiah 42)
2. Identify the "bruised reed" or "smoldering wick"; who is Matthew referring to?
3. How is "justice" being used here?
4. Identify some classes of people – in or out of the church – who may be "bruised reeds..."
5. "The church is the only army that shoots its own wounded." Isn't that sad??

"Behold, my servant whom I have chosen,
my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased.
I will put my Spirit upon him,
and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.
He will not quarrel or cry aloud,
nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not quench,
until he brings justice to victory;
and in his name, the Gentiles will hope
Matthew 12:18-21

Update the profile of Christ (John 13 + Matthew 9:35-38 + Luke 10:25-37 + Luke 15:11-32 + James 2:1-13; Matthew 7:1-6; Matthew 12:18-21).

Make it Stick

What are some personal application questions that come to mind?

Build your own profile*

❖ *To what extent does your profile match the profile of Christ so far?*

Lesson VIII

The Sin of ...

Luke 16:19-31 (cf. Matthew 25:31-46)

1. What is the main point of this parable?
2. Pretend you're reading this for the first time and you stop at v. 21. Which person would you rather be?
3. What was the rich man's primary sin?
4. Is there something that the rich man does in the afterlife that gives additional insight into his demeanor?
5. Which verse in the parable provides the rationale for the consequences the rich man is suffering?

Update the profile of Christ (John 13 + Matthew 9:35-38 + Luke 10:25-37 + Luke 15:11-32 + James 2:1-13; Matthew 7:1-6; Matthew 12:18-21; Luke 16:19-31).

Make it Stick

What are some personal application questions that come to mind?

Build your own profile*

❖ *To what extent does your profile match the profile of Christ so far?*

Down to Cases

Would you forgive?

While imprisoned in a Nazi concentration camp, Simon Wiesenthal was taken from his work detail to the bedside of a dying Nazi SS officer, named Karl. Haunted by the crimes in which he'd participated, the soldier wanted to confess to — & obtain absolution from — a Jew.

“The pains in my body are terrible, but worse still is my conscience... I cannot die... without coming clean... In the last hours of my life you are with me. I do not know who you are. I only know that you are a Jew and that is enough... In the long nights while I have been waiting for death, time and time again I have longed to talk about it to a Jew and beg forgiveness from him. Only I didn't know whether there were any Jews left... I know that what I am asking is almost too much for you, but without your answer I cannot die in peace.”

Simon left the room without a word. When his group returned to the hospital the next day, the same nurse came to Simon and told him that Karl had died.

What would you have done?

Victim or...?

A Korean play begins with the main character complaining to his best friend in prison on the day of their release:

“My old man beat me when I was only a little kid. My mom only knows how to scold me. I was bullied at school. I was then framed for a crime I did not commit and sent to jail for 16 years. Now, I have terminal cancer with only a few months left to live. Why me? Why am I so unlucky? Why is the world so unfair and so cruel? Life has no meaning. I am dying to die, because life is terrible!”

How would you respond?

The beggar...

Standing near an on-ramp on I-5 is a gentleman with a large handwritten sign, “Homeless Veteran. Hungry. Any help appreciated. God bless.” You notice his clothes are pretty nice; he's sporting expensive sneakers, nice jeans and a clean shirt. He has a large white dog with him and it appears to be a purebred. His beard is trimmed neatly and he's wearing some pretty nice glasses. He doesn't look poor.

What do you do?

The friend who talks trash

Every Saturday morning, you and a friend eat breakfast together at a nice restaurant. On this Saturday, after the usual small talk, the conversation takes a dramatic turn. Your friend begins to tell you that things have gotten very difficult at home — the marriage is not going well and it's affecting everyone, including the kids. She then begins to open up about her feelings toward her husband. She is not asking for advice, and it seems that she is only interested in someone hearing her side of the story; she just needs someone to listen. However, as she continues to criticize and complain, it becomes clear to you that she is the one who is in the wrong. The things she is complaining about are not things that she should be expecting from her husband. The things she says about him shows that she is not in submission to him, and does not appear to even know what that means.

What do you do?

The cost of kindness

Many years ago, a 10-year-old boy walked up to the counter of a soda shop and climbed onto a stool. He caught the eye of the waitress and asked, "How much is an ice cream sundae?"

"Fifty cents," the waitress replied. The boy reached into his pockets, pulled out a handful of change, and began counting. The waitress frowned impatiently. After all, she had other customers to wait on.

The boy squinted up at the waitress. "How much is a dish of plain ice cream?" he asked. The waitress sighed and rolled her eyes. "Thirty-five cents," she said with a note of irritation.

Again, the boy counted his coins. At last, he said, "I'll have the plain ice cream, please." A few minutes goes by and the server returns with the dish of plain ice cream.

About ten minutes later, she returned and found the ice cream dish empty. The boy was gone. She picked up the empty dish and found that he had left fifty cents on the table. She swallowed hard.

Why? What do we learn?

Lesson IX

Another Perspective

Words of Jesus that seem less than “compassionate.” But are they?

Matt. 7:4, “You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”

Matt. 15:7, “You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, ‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me. But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.’”

Matt. 23:13, “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from men; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.”

Matt. 23:15, “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites...”

Matt. 23:16-17, “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘Whoever swears by the temple, that is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obligated.’ You fools and blind men; which is more important, the gold, or the temple that sanctified the gold?”

Matt. 23:23-24, “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!”

Matt. 23:25, “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!”

Matt. 23:27-28, “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. Even so you too outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”

Matt. 23:29, “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!”

Matt. 23:33, “You serpents, you brood of vipers, how shall you escape the sentence of hell?”

Mark 12:38-40, “Beware of the scribes who like to walk around in long robes, and like respectful greetings in the market places, and chief seats in the synagogues, and places of honor at banquets, who devour widows’ houses, and for appearance’s sake offer long prayers; these will receive greater condemnation.”

Luke 11:39, “You foolish ones, did not He who made the outside make the inside also?”

Luke 11:43, “Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the front seats in the synagogues, and the respectful greetings in the market places. Woe to you! For you are like concealed tombs, and the people who walk over them are unaware of it.”

Luke 11:52, “Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge; you did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered.”

Luke 12:1, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.”

John 8:44, “You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father...”

John 8:49, “I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me.”

John 8:55, “...and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I shall be a liar like you, but I do know Him, and keep His word.”

Questions

1. Are “compassion” (*splanknizomai*) and “love” (*agape*) the same? If not, define each and give an example of how they differ.
2. Does Jesus LOVE everyone? Does Jesus have COMPASSION on everyone?
3. Does compassion always lead to action?
4. Can a pronouncement of a “woe” on someone be an act of compassion? Explain.
5. Is calling someone a “fool” or a “hypocrite” ever a compassionate act?
6. Why can we not just parrot the words of Jesus to others when they seem to exhibit a similar attitude?