

Spiritual Vibrancy *While Serving the Suffering*

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God's Call to Compassion



A call to share in His suffering

*A call to true community –
suffering with and loving others*



Compassion: Suffering Together

- Walking alongside the suffering one
- As image-bearers, we are called to share Christ's compassion for the world

Be merciful, as I am merciful...

Luke 6:36



Our Compassionate God

*And the Lord said to Moses, I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and **I know you by name**. Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and **I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.***

Exodus 33:17-19 NIV



Our Compassionate God

*Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and **proclaimed his name, the LORD.** And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, **the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.**"*

Exodus 34:5-7 NIV



God's Pattern of Compassion

*During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. **God heard** their groaning and **he remembered** his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God **looked** on the Israelites and **was concerned** about them.*

Exodus 2:23-25



The Compassionate Savior

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Luke 4:18-19

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Matthew 9:35-38



Our Call to Radical Compassion

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else.

Galatians 6:2-4



Another Picture of God's Compassion

But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; so she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her."... He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. ...Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her.

Genesis 16:1,2,4,5



A God Who Keeps His Promises

*The angel of the LORD **found** Hagar near a spring in the desert;... Then the angel of the LORD told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." ...The angel added, "I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count."*

The angel of the LORD also said to her: "You are now pregnant and you will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael ("God hears"), for the LORD has heard of your misery... She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me." That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi...

Genesis 16:7,10-14



Our Calling is a Gift to Us...

....as we share in his suffering:

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 3:10-11



Compassion is Costly

Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!"

John 12: 23-28



Compassion is Obedience

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

Matthew 26: 36-42



***Jesus, create in me
more capacity to
LOVE!
Help me to obey you
with compassion,
even when it costs me.***



There is a war going on...

*How do we keep
from being destroyed
as we enter into
others' suffering?*



God Has a Redemptive Plan...

*...for both the sufferer
and
for the one ministering to
the suffering one.*



Keeping Your Spiritual Focus in Compassion

- **STAY**...*present*
- **REMEMBER**...*the Gospel*
- **SHARE**...*with others*
- **WORSHIP**...*our compassionate Savior*



The Spiritual Life of the Therapist: We Become What We Habitually Reflect

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