

## **“Compassion”**

**Text:           Lamentations 3:22-23**

**Intro:**

- Since the great tragedy of September 11, we hear the word “compassion” being used considerably in connection with the outpouring of support for the families of the victims of the Trade Center Towers.
- We are told that hundreds of millions of dollars have been given to meet the needs of these families.
- What I want us to do this morning is answer three questions regarding the word “compassion”.
  - ❑ What Compassion Is Not.
  - ❑ What Compassion Is.
  - ❑ What Compassion Does.

**I.     What Compassion IS Not**

- First, we want to look at the definition of Compassion:
  - ❑ Sorrow for the sufferings or trouble of another or others, with the urge to help; pity; deep sympathy.
  - ❑ Now that we know the definition, let’s discuss what this does **NOT** say.
    - Compassion is not mere sympathy.
    - It is not just “feeling your pain.”

- o It is not empathy – putting yourself in their position.
- o It is not agreement – being politically correct at the expense of being Biblically correct.
- Our society has taken the Biblical meaning of the word compassion abused it to its social and political advantage.
- **Examples:**
  - Supporting one political party’s agenda over another makes you compassionate toward one group of people, while supporting the other party’s agenda makes you not compassionate.
  - If you agree with homosexuality, you are compassionate.
    - o If you disagree, you are not only not compassionate, you are a homophobe.
  - Supporting certain politically correct medical issues and research makes you compassionate.
  - By the way, where is the compassion in funding AIDS research at a much higher level than such things as breast cancer and leukemia, EACH of which kills more people per year than AIDS and is not spread primarily by behavior?
    - o You don’t get breast cancer and leukemia by sleeping around.
    - o Other than in situations involving blood transfusions, you generally don’t get AIDS except through sexual activity.
  - Where is the compassion in that?
    - o The answer is obvious – it is NOT compassionate.

- o Only politically correct.
- My point here is that compassion has been co-opted by political and worldly reasoning rather than Biblical reasoning.
- Now, that we have seen what “Compassion” is not –
  - Let us see “What Compassions Is.”

## II. What Is Compassion?

- Remember our definition of compassion –
  - Sorrow for the sufferings or trouble of another or others, with the urge to help; pity; deep sympathy.
- Compassion is mainly seeing something wrong and doing something about it.
- **Let’s begin with looking at the compassion of God**
  - Compassion is a characteristic of God.
    - o Over and Over again in the Psalms we are told that he is a God full of compassion.
    - o **See Psalm 78:38**
    - o **Psalm 86:15**
    - o **Psalm 111:4**
    - o **Psalm 112:4**
    - o **Psalm 145:8**
  - **Our text in Lamentations 3:22-23, tell us –**
    - o Because of God’s mercy and compassion a sinner can avoid being consumed or going to hell.

- o God's compassions fail not – so cannot become unsaved.
- o God's compassions are new every morning – His compassion is limitless.
- o God's compassions are there each and every day fresh and anew to get you through the day.
- o You can count on it because – Great is His Faithfulness.
- We see God's compassion displayed through out the scriptures.
  - How many times did the Nation of Israel turn away from God –
    - o Despite this we read in the Word of God that if Israel would repent of their sin then God would –
      - o **“...have compassion on them...”**
  - The book of Jonah tells us that God had compassion on Ninevah after seeing their repentance in view of God's judgement on them.
  - Time and time again, we see through out the Gospel accounts the Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ had “Compassion” on those in need.
  - **Examples:**
    - o **Mt. 9:36** – “But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with **compassion** on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.”
    - o **Mt. 14:14** – “And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with **compassion** toward them, and he healed their sick.”

- o **Mt. 20:34** – “So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.”
- o **Mark 1:41** – “And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth [his] hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.”
- o **Luke 7:13-14** – “And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.”

➤ God IS compassion!

- And He shows compassion for us, His best and most precious creation.
- Even though we have sinned and walked away from His presence, rejecting Him.
- And what did God’s compassion drive Him to do?
- Provide a way out from the penalty of our sin.
- He sent His only begotten Son to bleed and die on the cross so we could have through His blood redemption and forgiveness sins and eternity in heaven with Him.
- He acted.
- He wasn’t just sympathetic.
- He didn’t just have empathy regarding our hopeless situation.

- He did something about it.
- And He did not allow His compassion to be derailed by the politics of a selfish society.

### **III. What Compassion DOES**

- True compassion does not allow you to stand by and just be sympathetic about someone's suffering or troubles.
- True compassion does not allow you just to have pity on someone because of what they are going through.
- True compassion does not allow you just to express empathy about a person's situation.
- No! True compassion will cause you to **MOVE** or to do something to help that person.
- The First Time that the word "compassion" appears in the scriptures is in **Exodus 2:6**.
  - The daughter of Pharaoh found the baby Moses floating in an ark on the river.
  - Pharaoh had decree that all the male babies born to the Hebrews were to drown in the river.
  - However, we see Pharaoh's daughter was moved with compassion for the weeping baby Moses and took him into her house and raised him as her own soon.

- We see in **Luke 10:30-37** that in **v. 33**, that the Samaritan on his journey came upon a man who had been robbed, beaten and left for dead on the road.
  - ❑ We are told when he saw him that Samaritan had compassion on him.
  - ❑ Because he had compassion on him he did just stand there looking at him and sympathizing and having pity on him.
  - ❑ No, he took action and helped the man and took care of his injuries and needs.
- In the gospel accounts that we looked at where Jesus had compassion, we see because of his compassion our Lord took action.
  - ❑ He alleviated pain and suffering.
  - ❑ We saw because our Lord's compassion –
    - **Mt. 14:14 – He healed the sick**
    - **Mt. 20:34 – He gave sight to the blind**
    - **Mark 1:41 – He healed the leper.**
    - **Luke 7:13-14 – He raised the dead son of the widow of Nain.**
- God's compassion began right in the Garden of Eve when man fell.
- We are told in **Genesis 3:15**, that God promised to the world that a man conceived by God and born of woman would come and destroy Satan and provide the way of salvation for all of mankind.

- “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”
- We see this in picture and type in **Genesis 3:21** – “Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.”
- Yes, we the saw God’s promise of **Genesis 3:15** fulfilled thousands of years later at a place called Calvary.
- Concerning God’s only begotten Son, the scriptures tell us – “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”
- God was moved with compassion.
  - He did not just sympathize with the suffering and pain our sin problem was going to cause.
  - An eternity in a lake of fire.
- He did something about.
  - He gave something very precious to Him.
    - His only begotten son.
- **Conclusion:**
- One last thing about compassion.
- The Word of God tells us that true compassion will make a **“difference”**.



- **Jude 1:22** – “And of some have compassion, making a difference”
- When was the last time you tried to make a difference in a person’s life?
  - I mean when is the last time that you had compassion about lost souls dying and going to hell.
  - And that compassion caused you not just to have pity on the person.
  - Not just sympathize about their lost condition and the lake of fire awaiting them.
  - But that compassion moved you to go and tell them how they could be saved through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.
  - That compassion moved you to pull that soul from the flames of hell!!!
  - Oh, I think it is very admirable that so many gave to support the families of the victims of the September 11, disaster.
  - But I tell you that those victims who were lost without Christ are in hotter flames and greater torment than the flames and fire of the twin trade towers.
  - They are crying out right now asking someone, anyone to have compassion on their living family members.
  - And make a difference in their lives not by donating money and material goods but telling them about their fate that waits them if they don’t trust Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

- The money and material goods may help alleviate some of their temporary pain and suffering.
- However, there is an eternal suffering that awaits all that don't repent of their sins and receive the blood atonement of Jesus Christ by faith for the payment of their sins.
- My challenge to you is won't you have COMPASSION and make a difference in someone's life with the Gospel of Christ which is the power of God unto salvation?