

COMPASSION - THE MOVING FORCE OF LOVE

[Wellsford Fellowship - 31/5/98 - EKB]

Reading: *Lam 3:22,23.*

“Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed,
because His **COMPASSIONS** fail not.
They are new every morning:
great is thy faithfulness.”

Compassion: is the inward urging to reach out in love to those around us who are in need.

The opposite: is indifference, lack of concern, or in Maori, "hoha".

Compassion in Jesus’ Ministry:

Mat 9:35-38

Compassion, v36, moved Jesus when He saw the crowds, weary, harassed, scattered, lost, with no shepherd to care, guide, feed, protect and heal them. So He said, “Pray that the Lord of the Harvest will thrust out labourers/ shepherds into His Harvest.”

The “lost” are all around us. The Great Shepherd of the sheep, *Heb 13:20*, is living in us by His Spirit, *Gal 2:20*. His **compassion** and love for the unsaved are in you, *Rom 5:5*. Are you stirring up, *2Tim 1:6*, His Spirit **of compassion** within? Do you have any feeling in your heart for those whom Jesus died to save, but are still under Satan’s power and lost forever?
Lk 19:10. Become a bold, caring, witnessing believer. Reach out in love.

Mat 14:14

When Jesus saw the sick He was moved by **compassion**, v14, to heal them. The Healer is living in you, *Mk 16:18*, *Jn 14:12*. Take your oil bottle, lay hands on the sick and pray believing. Rebuke the sickness in Jesus’ Name, *Lk 4:39*, *James 5:14-16*.

Mat 15:29-39

Jesus’ **compassion**, v32, moved Him to feed the hungry and weak, 4000 men (plus 4000 women, 4000 children) with only 7 loaves and a few little fish. Take the little you have, those few “crumbs,” and in Jesus’ Name, with His **compassion**, give them freely to those around you in need. He will do the multiplying. He will do exceedingly, abundantly, above all that you ask or think according to His power that works in you, *Eph 3:20*. We will not see the miracles God will do until we step out to help others.

Mat 20:29-34

It was **compassion** that moved Jesus to heal the two blind men of Jericho, v34.

Mk 1:40-42

The leper was healed when Jesus was moved with **compassion** and touched him, v41.

Mk 5:1-19

The man possessed with the legion of demons was set free because of the **compassion** Jesus had for him, v19. (*Mk 9:22* The distraught father of a demon possessed boy pleaded for Jesus’ **compassion** and help.)

Lk 7:11-16

It was Jesus’ **compassion** that moved Him to raise the young man to life again, and present him alive to his grieving mother, v13.

Compassion in Jesus' teaching and parables.

Jesus taught on the necessity of "**compassion.**"

Mat 18:21-35 In this parable Jesus taught of the **compassion** of the king to his servant who owed him \$10,000,000, and of the lack of **compassion** in the servant, to a fellow servant, who owed him \$100. Jesus said if we do not have the **compassion** of the king, to freely forgive others their debts against us, God will hand us over to the tormentors until we repent of our unforgiveness, v27,33.

Lk 10:30-37 Parable of the Good Samaritan who had **compassion** on his enemy, the Jew, who was lying on the road half dead. He picked him up, bandaged his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and took care of him until he was fully healed. Jesus' command is, "Go and do likewise," v33,37

Lk 15:11-32 The Prodigal Son wasted his father's inheritance and was returning home in shame. But when his father saw him coming back, he was moved with **compassion** and ran to welcome him home. "**Compassion**" forgives, overlooks, reaches out, forgets the past, and brings healing, v20.

God is full of compassion.

Ps 78:38 But He (God) being full of **compassion** forgave their iniquity, and did not destroy them, *Ps 86:15, Ps 111:4, Ps 145:8.*

Some New Testament References to Compassion

Heb 5:2 As God's ministers we can have **compassion** on the ignorant and those going astray, because we also are subject to weakness, and need **compassion** from the Lord and those around us.

1Pet 3:8 Be of one mind, having **compassion** for one another, love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous, not, v9, returning evil for evil, or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

Finally:

2Cor 5:14 It is the love and **compassion** of Christ that moves us, constrains us and compels us, to reach out to help others.

Compassion is the fire of His love, in us, that moves us, *1Jn 4:7,8, Rom 5:5, Gal 2:20.*

Ask God for His **compassion** for the lost, weary, scattered, lonely, bereaved, sick, dying, hungry, weak, needy, blind, unclean and demon possessed of this world.