

Develop the Compassion of Jesus Christ

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Introduction:

Luke 10:25 NKJV - And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

Luke 10:26 NKJV - He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading [of it]?"

Luke 10:27 NKJV - So he answered and said, **"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind," and 'your neighbor as yourself.'** "

Luke 10:28 NKJV - And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live."

Luke 10:29 NKJV - But he, **wanting to justify himself**, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Luke 10:30 NKJV - Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain [man] went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded [him], and departed, leaving [him] half dead.

Luke 10:31 NKJV - "Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

Luke 10:32 NKJV - "Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side.

Luke 10:33 NKJV - "But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. **And when he saw him, he had compassion.**

So Jesus is showing the relationship to compassion to love. It is putting love into action.

Luke 10:34 NKJV - "So he went to [him] and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

Luke 10:35 NKJV - "On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave [them] to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.'

Luke 10:36 NKJV - "So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?"

Luke 10:37 NKJV - And he said, **"He who showed mercy on him."** Then Jesus said to him, **"Go and do likewise."**

Mercy = ἔλεος éleos, el'-eh-os; of uncertain affinity; compassion (human or divine, especially active):—(+ tender) mercy. **The KJV translates Strong's G1656 in the following manner:** [mercy](#) (28x).

From Outline of Biblical Usage:

- I. mercy: kindness or good will towards the miserable and the afflicted, joined with a desire to help them
 - A. of men towards men: to exercise the virtue of mercy, show one's self merciful

- B. of God towards men: in general providence; the mercy and clemency of God in providing and offering to men salvation by Christ
- C. the mercy of Christ, whereby at his return to judgment he will bless true Christians with eternal life

Other places this word is used:

Titus 3:5 KJV - Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Matthew 9:13 NKJV - "But go and **learn what [this] means**: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Matthew 12:7 NLT - But you would not have condemned my innocent disciples if you knew the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show **mercy**, not offer sacrifices.'

Matthew 23:23 NKJV - "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier [matters] of the law: justice and **mercy** and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

Specific Purpose of this message:

Today we're going to look at the subject of compassion and see how we need to be developing that trait - a trait that Jesus demonstrated and that we need to demonstrate also.

Need? Why?

Showing compassion (and mercy) demonstrates we fully know what God and Christ want us to do when they tell us to love one another and love our neighbor. The priest and the levite knew that they were to love, but they did not show compassion. They didn't "get it". We need to "get it" and do it!

Examples of Jesus

Matthew 9:35 NLT - Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness.

Matthew 9:36 NLT - When he saw the crowds, **he had compassion** on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 9:37 NLT - He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few.

Matthew 9:38 NLT - So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."

What caused the compassion? They were confused and helpless.

He had been healing all diseases and illness, but then told the disciples to pray, asking God to send more workers into the HIS fields.

After hearing the news of John the Baptist's death:

Matthew 14:13 NKJV - 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.

Matthew 14:14 NKJV - And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and **He was moved with compassion for them**, and healed their sick.

In Mark's account:

Mark 6:34 KJV - And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.

He did this even when he was hurting over the loss of John. His compassion exceeded his own personal loss or what was going on in his life.

Matthew 14:15 NKJV - 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."

Matthew 14:16 NKJV - But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You **give them something to eat.**"

What caused the compassion? Jesus saw the how large the multitude was and their need to be healed. Mark says that (again) they had need of a real shepherd and to be taught. So he healed the sick and then (see below) fed them. And taught them (as per Mark).

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Matthew 14:19 NKJV - 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.

Matthew 14:20 NKJV - So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained.

Matthew 14:21 NKJV - Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Matthew 14:23 NKJV - And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.

Mark 6:46 KJV - And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray. So we see that Jesus needed time alone to recharge and reconnect with his Father through prayer. (Remember, he had just lost his cousin, John.)

David Guzik Study Guide for Matthew 14:

*Both Jesus and the disciples were aware of the **great multitude** and aware of their needs. Yet it was the **compassion** of Jesus and His awareness of the power of God that led Him to go about feeding the multitude.*

- *The people are hungry, and the empty religionist offers them some ceremony or empty words that can never satisfy.*
- *The people are hungry, and the atheists and skeptics try to convince them that they aren't hungry at all.*

- *The people are hungry, and the religious showman gives them video and special lighting and cutting-edge music.*
- *The people are hungry, and the entertainer gives them loud, fast action, so loud and fast that they don't have a moment to think.*
- *The people are hungry — who will give them the bread of life?*

iii. Spurgeon used the words, **they do not need to go away** (they need not depart in the KJV) as the basis of a sermon. The theme of the sermon was that if there was no need for these mostly casual hearers of Jesus to depart, there is even less reason for the follower of Jesus to **go away** from continual communion and fellowship with Jesus.

- *Circumstances don't need to make you **go away**. You won't have things so hard or so easy that you don't need Jesus.*
- *There is nothing in Jesus that would make you want to **go away**.*
- *There is nothing in the future that will make you need to **go away**.*

Jesus entering Jerusalem

Luke 19:41 NKJV - Now as He drew near, **He saw the city and wept over it,**

Luke 19:42 NKJV - saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things [that make] for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

Luke 19:43 NKJV - "For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side,

Luke 19:44 NKJV - "and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

Matthew 23:37 KJV - O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, [thou] that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under [her] wings, and ye would not!
Matthew 23:38 KJV - Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.
Matthew 23:39 KJV - For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed [is] he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Luke 13:34 KJV - O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen [doth gather] her brood under [her] wings, and ye would not!
Luke 13:35 KJV - Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until [the time] come when ye shall say, Blessed [is] he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

From Barclay's Daily Study Bible:

Jesus' lament over Jerusalem. From the descent of the Mount of Olives there is a magnificent view of Jerusalem with the whole city fully displayed. As Jesus came to a turn in the road he stopped and wept over Jerusalem. He knew what was going to happen to the city. The Jews were even then embarking upon that career of political manoeuvre and intrigue which ended in the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, when the city was so devastated that a plough was

drawn across the midst of it. The tragedy was that if only they had abandoned their dreams of political power and taken the way of Christ it need never have happened.

The tears of Jesus are the tears of God when he sees the needless pain and suffering in which men involve themselves through foolish rebelling against his will.

From Albert Barnes' Notes on the Bible:

He wept over it- ***Showing his compassion for the guilty city, and his strong sense of the evils that were about to come upon it. See the notes at Mat_23:37-39. As he entered the city he passed over the Mount of Olives. From that mountain there was a full and magnificent view of the city. See the notes at Mat_21:1. The view of the splendid capital - the knowledge of its crimes - the remembrance of the mercies of God toward it - the certainty that it might have been spared if it had received the prophets and himself - the knowledge that it was about to put "him," their long-expected Messiah, to death, and "for" that to be given up to utter desolation - affected his heart, and the triumphant King and Lord of Zion wept! Amid all "his" prosperity, and all the acclamations of the multitude, the heart of the Redeemer of the world was turned from the tokens of rejoicing to the miseries about to come on a guilty people. Yet they "might" have been saved. If thou hadst known, says he, even thou, with all thy guilt, the things that make for thy peace; if thou hadst repented, had been righteous, and had received the Messiah; if thou hadst not stained thy hands with the blood of the prophets, and shouldst not with that of the Son of God, then these terrible calamities would not come upon thee. But it is too late. The national wickedness is too great; the cup is full: mercy is exhausted; and Jerusalem, with all her pride and splendor, the glory of her temple, and the pomp of her service, "must perish!" For the days shall come ...*** - This took place under Titus, the Roman general, 70 a.d., about thirty years after this was spoken.

Cast a trench about thee - The word "trench" now means commonly a "pit or ditch." When the Bible was translated, it meant also "earth thrown up to defend a camp" (Johnson's "Dictionary"). This is the meaning of the original here. It is not a pit or large "ditch," but a pile of earth, stones, or wood thrown up to guard a camp, and to defend it from the approach of an enemy. This was done at the siege of Jerusalem. Josephus informs us that Titus, in order that he might compel the city to surrender by "famine," built a wall around the whole circumference of the city. This wall was nearly 5 miles in length, and was furnished with thirteen castles or towers. This work was completed with incredible labor in ten days. The professed design of this wall was "to keep" the city "in on every side." Never was a prophecy more strikingly accomplished.

Shall lay thee even with the ground ... - This was literally done. Titus caused a plow to pass over the place where the temple stood. See the notes at Matt. 24. All this was done, says Christ, because Jerusalem knew not the time of its visitation - that is, ***did not know, and "would not" know, that the Messiah had come.*** "His coming" was the time of their merciful visitation. That time had been predicted, and invaluable blessings promised as the result of his advent; but they would not know it. They rejected him, they put him to death, and it was just that they should be destroyed.

We need to show compassion, too.

Colossians 3:12 NASB20 - So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, **put on a heart of compassion**, kindness, humility, gentleness, [and] patience;

Colossians 3:13 NASB20 - bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so [must] you [do] also.

Colossians 3:14 NASB20 - In addition to all these things [put on] love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

Colossians 3:15 NASB20 - Let the peace of Christ, to which you were indeed called in one body, rule in your hearts; and be thankful.

Colossians 3:16 NASB20 - Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, [and] spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Colossians 3:17 NASB20 - Whatever you do in word or deed, [do] everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Zechariah 7:8 NKJV - Then the word of the LORD came to Zechariah, saying,

Zechariah 7:9 NKJV - "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Execute true justice, **Show mercy and compassion Everyone to his brother.**

Zechariah 7:10 NKJV - Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, The alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart Against his brother.'

Warning and Consequences:

Zechariah 7:11 NKJV - "But they refused to heed, shrugged their shoulders, and stopped their ears so that they could not hear.

Zechariah 7:12 NKJV - "Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Thus great wrath came from the LORD of hosts.

Zechariah 7:13 NKJV - "Therefore it happened, [that] just as He proclaimed and they would not hear, so they called out and I would not listen," says the LORD of hosts.

Zechariah 7:14 NKJV - "But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations which they had not known. Thus the land became desolate after them, so that no one passed through or returned; for they made the pleasant land desolate."

Compassion - a result of godly fasting and with benefits:

Isaiah 58:6 NKJV - "[Is] this not the fast that I have chosen: **To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke?**

Isaiah 58:7 NKJV - **[Is it] not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh?**

Isaiah 58:8 NKJV - Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Isaiah 58:9 NKJV - Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I [am].' "If you take away the yoke from your midst, The pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,

Isaiah 58:10 NKJV - [If] you extend your soul to the hungry And satisfy the afflicted soul, Then your light shall dawn in the darkness, And your darkness shall [be] as the noonday.

An example within the family

Luke 15:11 NKJV - Then He said: "A certain man had two sons.

Luke 15:12 NKJV - "And the younger of them said to [his] father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls [to me].' So he divided to them [his] livelihood.

Luke 15:13 NKJV - "And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.

Luke 15:14 NKJV - "But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want.

Luke 15:15 NKJV - "Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

Luke 15:16 NKJV - "And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him [anything].

Luke 15:17 NKJV - "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

Luke 15:18 NKJV - 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,

Luke 15:19 NKJV - "and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." '

Luke 15:20 NKJV - "And he arose and came to his father. **But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.**

Luke 15:21 NKJV - "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

Luke 15:22 NKJV - "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put [it] on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on [his] feet.

Luke 15:23 NKJV - 'And bring the fatted calf here and kill [it], and let us eat and be merry;

Luke 15:24 NKJV - 'for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

Luke 15:25 NKJV - "Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing.

Luke 15:26 NKJV - "So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant.

Luke 15:27 NKJV - "And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.'

Luke 15:28 NKJV - "But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him.

Luke 15:29 NKJV - "So he answered and said to [his] father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends.

Luke 15:30 NKJV - 'But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.'

Luke 15:31 NKJV - "And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours.

Luke 15:32 NKJV - 'It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.' "

Ephesians 6:4 NKJV - And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Colossians 3:21 NKJV - Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Genesis 18:19 NKJV - "For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, **that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice**, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."

Conclusion:

Today we have seen many examples of compassion. We have seen the connection Jesus made of it to love and mercy. You and I need to make a concerted effort to be sure we understand what compassion is and apply it in our lives. We need to develop the compassion of Jesus Christ!

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## Additional Resources:

Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology - Compassion

### Compassion [\[N\]](#)

That (human) disposition that fuels Acts of kindness and mercy. Compassion, a form of love, is aroused within us when we are confronted with those who suffer or are vulnerable. Compassion often produces action to alleviate the suffering, but sometimes geographical distances or lack of means prevent people from acting upon their compassionate feelings. Compassion is not a uniquely Christian response to suffering (cf. [Exod 2:6](#) ; [Luke 10:33](#) ), even though Christians have unique reasons for nurturing their compassionate dispositions.

The Hebrew (*hamal* [[l:m'i](#)]), *rachuwm* [[Wj:r](#)]) and Greek (*splanchnisomai* [[splagcNIVzomai](#)]) words sometimes translated as "compassion" also bear a broader meaning such as "to show pity," "to love," and "to show mercy." Other near synonyms for compassion in English are "to be loved by," "to show concern for," "to be tenderhearted," and "to act kindly."

*The Old Testament.* God's compassion is freely ( [Exod 33:19](#) ; [Rom 9:15](#) ) and tenderly given, like a mother's ( [Isa 49:15](#) ) or father's ( [Ho 11:8](#) ) compassion for a child. Yahweh boldly declares, "I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion" ( [Exod 33:19](#) ). While his compassion can be thwarted by disobedience ( [Deut 13:17](#) ; [30:3](#) ; [2 Chron 30:9](#) ), there are times when his disobedient people's only hope is that his compassion overcomes his anger ( [Ho 11:8](#) ). Yahweh's compassion is rooted in his covenant relationship with his people ( [2 Ki 13:23](#) ). Hope for the future ( [Isa 49:13](#) ; [Jer 12:15](#) ) is also rooted in God's compassion. It is said that compassion follows wrath ( [Jer 12:15](#) ; [Lam 3:32](#) ), is new each morning ( [La 3:22-23](#) ), and overcomes sin ( [Psalm 51:1](#) ; [Micah 7:19](#) ) rather than ignoring it.

Since compassionate Acts flow from compassionate persons, we are not surprised to learn that compassion is constitutive of God's very being ( [Exod 34:6](#) , "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God" ). Echoes of this declaration are found throughout Scripture. God's compassion was essential for the maintenance of the covenant and his people praised him for it continually ( [Psalm 78:38](#) ; [86:15](#) ; [103:13](#) ; [145:8](#) ).



"Compassion" is not frequently used with a human subject. It is found, however, in a mother's attitude toward her son ( [1 Kings 3:26](#) ), a princess's reaction to an abandoned child ( [Exod 2:6](#) ), and the Ziphites' treatment of Saul ( [1 Sam 23:21](#) ).

*The New Testament.* The intertestamental literature and the New Testament continue to speak about God as the compassionate one. God's compassion is demonstrated in his Son's ministry for and among his people ( [Matt 9:36](#) ; [Mark 6:34](#) ). The messianic compassion is extended to the helpless crowds ( [Matt 9:36](#) ), the sickly masses ( [Matt 14:14](#) ), the hungry people ( [Mr 8:2](#) ), and the blind men ( [Matt 20:34](#) ). The waiting father ( [Luke 15:20](#) ) is filled with compassion when he sees his wayward son returning — just as God has compassion on us and accepts us when we repent and return to him.

Believers learn about compassion through example and exhortation. Imitating God and/or Christ has led many to lives of exemplary compassion. The Scriptures also exhort believers to make compassion an integral aspect of their lives ( [Zech 7:9](#) ; [Col 3:12](#) ). Compassion needs to be nurtured and practiced or even this basic love response can grow dull and cold.

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