

Compassion in Action

By Laurence Torr.

An outstanding feature in the life of Jesus Christ was His compassion for others. Jesus clearly showed forth the qualities of our Father in His life. Our Heavenly Father is the God of all compassion

As we grow in our relationship with our heavenly Father doing what He shows us to do from a loving obedient heart, being led by His spirit in us, we too can grow and be compassionate towards others, energized by the love of God living in our hearts and lives.

we will look at the records in the gospel where this compassion is show forth in the life of Jesus, the Word compassion that we will look at in the Gospels means

to be moved as to one's bowels, hence to be moved with compassion, have compassion (for the bowels were thought to be the seat of love and pity or to yearn with compassion).

[**Mat 9:36 KJV**] 36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion[G4697] on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

[**Mat 14:14 KJV**] 14 And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion[G4697] toward them, and he healed their sick.

[**Mat 15:32 KJV**] 32 Then Jesus called his disciples [unto him], and said, I have compassion[G4697] on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way.

[**Mat 18:27 KJV**] 27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion,[G4697] and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

[**Mat 20:34 KJV**] 34 So Jesus had compassion[G4697] [on them], and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.

[**Mar 1:41 KJV**] 41 And Jesus, moved with compassion,[G4697] put forth [his] hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.

[**Mar 6:34 KJV**] 34 And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion[G4697] toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.

[**Mar 8:2 KJV**] 2 I have compassion[G4697] on the multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat:

[**Mar 9:22 KJV**] 22 And ofttimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion[G4697] on us, and help us.

[**Luk 7:13 KJV**] 13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion[G4697] on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

Luke 10:30-37

³⁰ And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

³¹ And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

³² And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

³³ But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,

³⁴ And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

³⁵ And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

³⁶ Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

³⁷ And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

Luke 15:11-24

¹¹ And he said, A certain man had two sons:

¹² And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

¹³ And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

¹⁴ And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

¹⁵ And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

¹⁶ And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

¹⁷ And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

¹⁹ And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

²⁰ And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

²¹ And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

²² But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

²³ And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

In Psalms 103: David portrays the God as one who grants forgiveness, brings healing, and executes justice and righteousness for all. He then cites the capstone of God's eternal goodness by declaring,

Psalms 103:8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

David goes on to discuss some of the riches of his grace and compassion (in 9-12) and subsequently points out the paternal nature of the Lord's compassion:

⁹ He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger forever.

¹⁰ He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

¹² As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

In Verse 17-18 we see the paternal nature of God compassion

¹⁷ But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

¹⁸ To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.

Psalm 86:15 ¹⁵ But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, long suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

The meaning of compassion in the next scripture is different from the one we read in the gospels compassion here is "to have pity, a feeling of distress through the ills of others," is used of God's compassion,

Romans 9:15 ¹⁵ For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.