

Daily Devotional, June 17, 2021 Clothed in Compassion

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:12-13 (NIV)

We believe ourselves to be compassionate people; people who have a feeling of wanting to help someone who is sick, hungry, and in trouble. We tithe 10%, send a letter when someone is sick, and even give a homeless person a meal every so often. These are all good and wonderful things, however, do our compassionate acts come at a cost, or are they given out of our excess?

God is the perfect example of *complete* compassion. In Lamentations 3:22-23 we read, "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning, great is your faithfulness." His compassion for us never fails, and it is new every morning. His compassion wasn't easy. We were sick, destined for eternal death because of our sin.

But God, in His merciful compassion, gave sacrificially of Himself in order for us to be free. The way Jesus died, the suffering He had to go through, was not easy and not out of His abundance. He literally gave *everything* He had, His life and His compassion were so great that He even asked God to forgive those who were killing Him, *as they were killing Him* (Luke 23:34). He gave completely of Himself, painfully, because He wanted to save us from the sickness and death of sin.

What a radical example of compassion! God seeing us in our misery, giving completely of Himself to forgive us, and scooping us up in victory to one day be with Him for eternity. That kind of compassion is uncommon. "That while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom 5:8).

Since we were made in the image of God, imperfectly sharing His attributes, how should His example of compassion inspire our own?

In Colossians 3, Paul instructs us to "*clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*"

We are to follow His example of compassion. I'm not sure what that looks like in your life, maybe forgiving someone over and over again, maybe giving sacrificially above your tithe, maybe even giving your time to disciple those around you or volunteer in a ministry.

Spend some time this morning asking God to search your heart. Ask Him to show you ways that you can share compassion with those around you. Once God tells you, and trust me, if you listen long and patiently enough, He will, trust His answer and act upon it.

We have been blessed, as God's people, so that we might be a blessing to others. We have been shown perfect compassion, in order for us to share that same compassion with others. "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16.

Prayer: Lord, give me the heart to be interested in the troubles of others and provide for me the means to help them. I want to be like you that had so much compassion for the world that you sacrificed your Son on a cross for us. I want to have that kind of heart for the world that I will do all I can to be a voice for the oppressed, a giver to the poor, and encouragement for the disabled. Through Christ, show me the way, Amen.