

God Introduces Himself

How do you introduce yourself?

Exodus 34:6-7

⁶ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.”

Why Do We Need Compassion?

Death expanded

The widow’s hardship

What Does Jesus’ Compassion Look Like?

Life breaking through

Crashing a funeral

Funeral customs of the day
“Do not weep”

For the widow

For the poor and distressed (Luke 10:33, 15:20)

Death undone

A present hope – the story of El Cayo in Honduras

Who is Jesus to Give Compassion?

The authority of Jesus

He is Lord – used in Luke and Acts to describe Jesus in his exaltation and authority, post resurrection.

He speaks to the dead man directly. Contrast this with Elijah and Elisha’s resuscitations.

“He came up” is a special Greek word that whenever it is used of Jesus coming to someone, it indicates his authority. (Mark 1:31, Luke 7:14, Matthew 28:18)

The basis of his authority

A compassionate people

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. When you think of God’s character, what comes to mind first? How does it compare with what he said?
2. How does Jesus show compassion in this story? Name *all the ways* he fights against the power of death.
3. What gives Jesus the authority to overturn the power of death?
4. How might you be the agent of compassion in someone else’s life? Why should compassion include the Gospel message?