

SOAP BOX “COMPASSION”

WE ARE IN A WAR AGAINST EVIL

The divide between good and evil
The contrast between life and death (John 10:10)
The tension between those who believe in the bible and those who don't
The opposition against those who hold to biblical morals and stand on truth
The fight to raise up and train the next generation of followers of Christ

ALL IN A CULTURE THAT IS JUST MORE AND MORE “OFF CENTER”

-IT IS LIKE MUCH OF HUMANITY HAS LOST COMMON SENSE!

Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.

Romans 1 God's frustrations with SINFUL Humanity
Romans 2 God's frustrations with HIS Judgmental Followers
Romans 3 NO ONE IS RIGHTEOUS! 3:23 All have sinned and fall short!

Sinful humanity!

Romans 1:22-23 but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools

Romans 1:28-31 Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹ they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.

THIS IS A WORLD WITHOUT JESUS!

WE READ ROMANS 1...IT IS EASY TO GET ANGRY AND FRUSTRATED!

-It makes no sense because it is not the way we think!

-We need to Stand on truth and continue to be Salt & Light to a dark world!!

-Eph says who the real enemy is.....and to “Armor Up” and STAND!

-Use your voice, Use your vote, Use your wallet, protect your kids!

You CAN disagree with someone and not HATE them

- You can speak up and not be judgmental
- You can say something is wrong and not have a phobia
- You can stand for TRUTH and still be LOVING

-BUT BEING HONEST.....IT IS REALLY DIFFICULT!

-AND ALSO: MANY CHRISTIANS FAIL!

Joel Osteen “Right thing said in the wrong way becomes the wrong thing!”

So you read of God’s wrath and frustration with humanity and agree with him.....

But then.....you go to chapter 2: Written to the followers of Jesus!

Romans 2:1-4 You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. ²Now we know that God’s judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. ³So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God’s judgment? ⁴Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

Chapter 1 is about how bad people are without Jesus

Chapter 2 is about how bad people are WITH Jesus.....THEN:

Romans 3:23 For ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

THIS IS THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL!

WE ARE “ALL” MESSED UP AND NEED A SAVIOR!

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Condemn: To declare to be reprehensible, wrong, or evil usually after weighing evidence and without reservation.

-Jesus said he came for the sick, not the healthy!

Luke 19:41-44 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it⁴² and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.⁴³ The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side.⁴⁴ They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”

11 times in the New Testament we see that Jesus was “MOVED BY COMPASSION”

Matthew 9:35-36 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he was moved by compassion, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

LET US BE MOVED BY COMPASSION!

John 4:4-18 Now he had to go through Samaria.⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶ Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?”⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.^[a])¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”¹¹ “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?”¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”¹³ Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”¹⁶ He told her, Go, call your husband and come back.¹⁷ “I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

THIS STORY CAN BE READ IN 2 WAYS! 2 TONES

- 1) JESUS CALLED HER OUT! HE REBUKED HER! HE TOLD HER THE WAY IT WAS!
- 2) JESUS SHOWED COMPASSION ON HER AND SPOKE DIGNITY AND VALUE INTO HER!
- 3) REALITY: THE WAY WE SEE THIS STORY CAN REVEAL WHERE OUR HEARTS ARE AT.

Jesus broke barriers just by talking to this woman!

- 1) Jesus broke the gender barrier
Women were 1/2 of man
Not allowed in temple.... separate section
testimony in court.....needed 2 to be 1
- 2) Jesus broke the ethnic barrier
Samaritans were considered 1/2 breeds.....Less than!
- 3) Jesus broke through the moral barrier
She was an adulterer, everyone knew it.
-She was at the well in the afternoon.....not when the other ladies got water!
-Probably labeled, shunned and talked about.

Jesus showed compassion, not rebuke

Rebuke is actually for Christians
Compassion is for the lost

Jesus didn't shame her, but spoke the truth with love.

THINK OF A FEW CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS BEHIND THE SCENES:

culture....not uncommon, if a woman was barren....husband divorced her...
what if after being tossed around she rather than being a prostitute, made a cordial
agreement to be a part of this man's concubine so she would be taken care of?

Jesus gave her dignity....knew her heart.

In their culture, if she was divorced, she couldn't have gotten remarried.
There is also a chance she could have been widowed several times and just could not bring
herself to risk it again.

WE HONESTLY DON'T KNOW.....AND THE STORY DOESN'T TELL! BUT WE FILL
IN THE GAPS!

-Later she told everyone "come see the man who told me everything"

-normal response from rebuke???

-MANY SAMARITANS BELIEVED!

MOVED BY COMPASSION

KEEP THE FAITH AND KEEP A HEART OF COMPASSION!

-REMEMBER EVERYBODY HAS A STORY!

“Fear of the church in America is not only that we would compromise our truth, but that we would fight so hard to keep our truth that we compromise our love. We need both!”

-Dr. Allen Tennison

WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT!

BUT.....STILL KEEP A HEART OF COMPASSION!

-What I see is a lot of anger and complaining.....but don't hear much about praying!

If people prayed about it as much as complained about it.....our passion would be laced with compassion instead of anger.

Luke 6:28-30 Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.

Charles Spurgeon says before we can be winners of souls we have to be weepers of souls.

2 Peter 3:3-4 Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. ⁴They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised?

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

