

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

AUTHENTIC LOVE IS FULL OF COMPASSION

THEME VERSE

Galatians 6:2 "Bear One Another's Burdens"

PASSAGE: John 11: 1-44

Warm Up

What is your most memorable story or example of compassion?

Compassion

The Bible paints a picture of compassion as being deeply moved into action to help others in pain and suffering. **Why is it important that there are emotions and actions working together to show true compassion?**

Compassion for the Doubting (John 11: 17-27)

Martha receives from Jesus reminders of His control and power instead of answers of why her brother died. **How are reminders of God being in control helpful to the doubting?**

Compassion for the Hurting (John 11: 28-36)

Mary receives from Jesus tears and reminders of his love for her family. **How is it compassionate to share in someone's emotions? What makes it hard to share in others' emotions?**

Why Jesus Weeps (John 11: 38-44)

Even though Jesus raises Lazarus back to life, he weeps over the pain and suffering sin causes in people's lives. **What does that show about who Jesus is?**

Reflection Question:

To share others suffering can be painful. It goes against our desire to protect ourselves. Yet it is a powerful way to show we have God's love flowing in us. **Have you been letting yourself be deeply moved by others lately? Pray for the opportunity to show compassion to someone.**

Operation Unity #3

9-18-22

Love That Is Compassionate

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-7 Men's. Women's. C@R. Foster. Employment. Min Fair.
- B. Slide8 Israel Mtg: Next Sun 9/25 I have 2 Meetings: (1) **New Interest**: 1:30-2pm.
(2) **Israel Team Mtg**: 2-2:45pm. [Feb.27-March12 - see brochure on App] *Rm.133*

II. Slide9a Intro: Love That Is Compassionate (compassion for the doubting & hurting)

- A. We've looked at *Love that is Sacrificial*. *Love that is Hospitable*/stranger.
- B. Our verse, Gal.6:2 *bear one another's burdens*. Our Text will be Jn.11.
- C. **Compassion** = with + suffering. *To suffer with*. [feeling or showing sympathy and concern for others]
- D. Slide9b Psychologists point out that, *We all carry deep griefs of one sort or another, and these come to the surface when we are with others who have more immediate reason for sorrow*.

III. Slide10a COMPASSION

- A. Remember when Moses wanted to see God, so God revealed himself to Moses in ch.33. **Then**, in ch.34 God basically says, if you really wanna know me, it's not about seeing but it's really about knowing Me.
 1. So in (ch.33) we see what He **did**, (ch.34) we hear what He **said**.
 2. **And** this next statement becomes *the peoples working definition of God*, referred to about **20 x's** throughout the Bible.
 3. God's Name stands for His entire being. It is His nature. It is who He is.
 - a) Ex.34:6 *The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness*.
 4. Slide10b רַחוּם (rahum) *merciful/compassionate*. This is the **1st time** it is used in the Bible & it is **God describing Himself**. [13 x's in OT usually translated *merciful*]

- a) So both the Hebrew words for **compassionate** (rahum) & **compassion** (rahamim) are both related to the Hebrew word **womb**, (rehem).¹
 - b) So compassion in the OT is centered in **a persons core**.
 - c) It points to *a mothers tender feelings for her vulnerable infant*.
5. So Rehem is a word that conveys intense emotion. Sometimes translated as **deeply moved**.
6. **Solomon Story in 1 Kg 3**. 2 mothers/harlots that lived together, each had a baby. 1 died in the night. Both claim as her own. Take to Solomon, **cut baby in half**.
- a) **One mom was deeply moved**. It was her **compassion** that revealed she was the true mother. *Then the woman whose son was living spoke to the king, for she yearned with compassion for her son; and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him!* (26)

B. Slide11a But it's not just an **emotional** word it involves **action**.

1. It is mostly used for **God's actions** motivated by **His emotions**.
2. **Like** when the Israelites were enslaved down in Egypt, God's Rahamim, is deeply moved to rescue them.
 - a) So of course he first reveals himself as compassionate (Ex.34:6)
3. Yet all through the OT Israelites rebel against **the Compassionate One seeking other gods**.
4. **Slide11b** Then in Israel's History, **Isaiah** reveals **God like a Mother** full of Rahamim toward her baby. Is.49:15 *Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you*.
 - a) God is full of *motherly compassion*, and He will rescue His people.
5. Later in **Isaiah** we see that God is going to do this by **entering into the suffering of humanity** (compassion = to suffer with).

¹ Some notes are from the Bible Project video, Compassion.

a) And of course this points forward to a time where **Jesus** enters as a baby. **He is Yahweh's deep compassion, become human.**

C. So in the NT we have the Gk. word for compassion/Oik-tirmos. We see **Jesus** embracing the sick and helping outcast, **He is deeply moved** by human suffering.

1. He likens Himself to **a mother hen** protecting her chicks under her wing.
2. **And then of course, Jesus** then is **moved by compassion** to enter into Humanity's **suffering unto death**. **To rescue, redeem, & restore us, and to bring us near to God.**

D. **Now**, it's the same **life of compassion** that **Jesus** calls His **followers to imitate**.

1. Allowing ourselves: **to be moved by the pain of others, to embrace the hurting, and to participate in relieving suffering in this world.**
2. **You must be compassionate, just as your father is compassionate.** Lk.6:36

E. **Slide 1c** **So compassionate** is the 1st word (Ex.34:6) and the last word (the cross) God uses to describe himself.

1. So when **we** are in pain, or see **others** suffering, we can be certain, **God is deeply moved** to respond, and is there to meet us in His deep compassion
2. **Sympathetic Resonance**: If one Tuning Fork is struck & set in vibration, **the other** Tuning Fork of the same pitch will take up the vibrations **sympathetically**. The 1st is the **generator**, **the other** becomes the **resonator**.
 - a) **Remember**, when a cord is struck in the weakness of **our human instrument**, it **resonates in His!**

IV. **Slide 12-14 COMPASSION FOR THE DOUBTING AND HURTING (Jn.11:1-44)**

A. **READ** Text - 3 slides.

B. **Slide 15a MARTHA AND MARY**

1. **What compassion** Jesus shows for Martha and Mary.
2. First in regards to **God's timing** I want to say, **that since the corpse was to be the center stage before the drama can even begin, Jesus must wait until Lazarus dies before He can make His entrance. But Mary and**

Martha can't see backstage in heaven. All they can see is an expansive, black curtain drawn across their lives. They sit at home, despondent, as in an empty theater.

3. Martha ran and Mary sat. Martha meet Jesus face-to-face. Mary meets Him face-to-feet. Martha needed intellectual propping up. Mary needed emotional support. Martha needed to know that Jesus was in control. Mary needed to know that Jesus cared.

a) *They grieved and mourned differently.* And that's perfectly OK by Jesus. He meets them right where their personality takes them. One drew out of Jesus *theological truths and promises.* The other *evoked tears.*

C. *Slide15b* What an incredible Savior. Weeping not just *for us in our sin, but with us in our suffering.*

1. Ken Gire said, *So strange, One with absolute power would surrender to so small an army as tears? But He does! [He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. Is.53:4]* “And, for a beautifully tender moment, we are given the privilege to glimpse one of the most provocative embraces *between deity & humanity.*”

D. *Slide16a* Shortest vs in the Bible describe *Jesus's feelings, His emotions, Jesus wept!*

1. Even those watching on said, *look how he loved.*

E. What usually gets emphasized in this chapter is that *He is the resurrection and the life* and rightfully so, *but* often what gets missed is *His tears.*

1. Of course in his tears they weren't just for Lazarus (he was going to raise him). *What were they for? (we'll get to that in a min)*

F. *Slide16b* Put these 2 statements together: *Lord, he whom you love ... is ill* (3).

1. *Christ* doesn't believe in *karma.* Karma in Hinduism and Buddhism, is *the sum of a person's actions in this and previous states of existence, viewed as deciding their fate in future existences.*

a) It's **not**, as many of us still believe, **Good** things happen to good people, and **Bad** things happen to bad people.

G. Slide16c How many words in this section speak to Jesus' feelings?

1. He whom you love (3). Jesus loved Martha, Mary, Laz (5). He was deeply moved (33) [to snort as an expression of anger, to be moved with the deepest emotions. Not just stirred by Mary's tears **but also** the crowds tears]. He was greatly troubled (33) [to shake, to trouble, to be disturbed, to shutter]. Jesus wept (35) [Morris, *He burst into tears*]. Then the Jews standing by *must've seen His emotions* said, See how He loved him (36).
2. Jesus identifies with our sorrows. Heb.4:15 *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses.*
3. A loving heart will always find a way to **bear others burdens**. Gal.6:2

H. Slide16d Now which do you say is **more incredible**? A man who *raises the dead* or a God who *weeps*? What do you find **more amazing**? The power of Jesus or the emotions of Jesus?

V. Slide17a WHY IS JESUS WEEPING?

A. Why is Jesus weeping? Is it for Laz? He's about to raise him. No, He weeps because He knows *Lazarus* will die again. So will *Mary*. So will *Martha*. So will *you*.

1. He knows of the **sadness** around each of these occasions. And He knows the reason for all of the sadness, it's wrapped up in a 3-letter-word, Slide17b **SIN**. James says, *sin when it is fully grown brings forth death*. (1:15)
2. The tears of Jesus represent the tears of God. Knowing that mankind is lost and separated from God.

a) It was as if Jesus was saying, *I hate death. I hate what sin has done to my creation. I hate the distress it brings to mankind. I hate to watch my children grieve so intensely*. [like: Denise Guerts, Liz Zarate, Mary Jane Hughes, Jessica Heredia, Paula Pyburn, Teri Mederios, Judy Terry, & all their families of course ... just to name a few this year] **Jesus wept** for each of you & yur fam!

3. It is difficult to find **joy** when *those you love* are in **pain**. I like that Jesus *isn't hyper-spiritual* and this text doesn't read, **and Jesus laughed**.

a) **Slide17c** Ps.56:8,9 NLT *You keep track of all my sorrows* (tossings). *You've collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book* (scroll). *9 My enemies will retreat when I call to you for help. **This I know: God is on my side!***

4. **Slide17d** God is not absent, He **does not fail to notice** your suffering. Become confident, like the Psalmist, *that God watches over you, especially in your suffering!*

5. **So**, if God enters into our pain, **then why aren't we doing that for each other?**

6. **Let's remember CM**, people are coming through these doors looking for *the compassion of Jesus - on display - through his people*.

B. **Prayer. Thank you Jesus for:** giving dignity to our grief, freedom to our emotions. For allowing our **tears** to be *a beautiful tribute* to those who have died, letting them know they will be *loved and missed*. You Jesus know what it's like to lose somebody you love. **You do know how I feel**. Help me to have compassion on those that need compassion. Help me to feel the pain they feel. Help me to feel their uncertainty, fear, happiness, regret, despondency. Lord, thank you for allowing us to see that **You cry with the worlds crying**.

C. Keywords: compassion, doubting, hurting.