

A background image of Earth from space, showing the blue and white horizon of the planet against a black starry sky. A bright sun is visible in the upper right corner, creating a lens flare effect.

# A TIME FOR...

**Showing Compassion To Others**

# Can Compassion be Wrong?

1 Cor. 13:3 AMP

“If I **give all my possessions** to feed the poor, and **if I surrender my body to be burned**, but **do not have love**, it does me no good at all.”



# “Wrongs” of Showing Compassion

1. Reference.....To boost our **reputation**
2. Spectacle.....To **‘show off’**
3. Reciprocate.....An eye for an eye
4. Self-Centred....It is about increasing **self-value/worth**
5. Saviour Mentality.....To think ‘you’ should and can ‘save’
6. Loss of **Truth**.....To do everything, except point to Truth

# Can Compassion be an Alternative?

Mathew 23:23 NLT

<sup>23</sup> “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to **tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith.** You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things”

Tithing/serving in church/teaching/preaching...etc ≠ showing compassion. It is not an Either/Or, it is a Both/and requirement!



# What is Compassion?

Exodus 34:6-7 NIV

<sup>6</sup> 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, <sup>7</sup> maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin...”

“**Compassion**”:

Hebrew = *Rakhum*

As a noun- *Rakhamim*

Related to Hebrew for **Womb** - *Rekhem*

Greek = **splagchnizomai**; to be moved in the inward parts, i.e. to feel compassion.

Deep seated emotions that compels action!

# God's Compassion

Isaiah 49:15 NIV

15 “Never! Can a mother forget her nursing child?  
Can she **feel no love** for the child she has borne?  
But even if that were possible,  
I would **not forget** you!”

Psalms 103:13 NIV

13 “The Lord is like a father to his children,  
tender and compassionate to those who fear him.”



# How to Show Compassion?

## Jesus Christ is the Example and the Goal...

### 1. **See** the need of others

Matt. 9:36 “**Seeing the people**, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.”

### 2. **Move to meet need** even without being asked

Matt. 15:32 “And Jesus called His disciples to Him, and said, “I feel compassion for the people, because they have remained with Me now three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way.”

# How to Show Compassion?

Jesus Christ is the Example and the Goal...

## 3. Be willing to help if asked

Matt. 8:2-3 “Lord, **if you are willing, you can** make me clean.”  
Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “**I am willing,**” he said. “Be clean!”

## 4. Teach/share your testimony

Mark 6:34 “When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and **He felt compassion** for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and **He began to teach them many things**”



# How to Show Compassion?

Jesus Christ is the Example and the Goal...

5. Do not condemn and do not compromise

John 8:10-11 “Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?” “No, Lord,” she said. And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

The world would teach compromise as an act of compassion but in Christ, compassion is only true and godly if we remain in, and live by, **THE TRUTH**

# Outcome?

“Compassion ceases to be a demon when it ceases to be a god, and compassion becomes itself, in all of its glory, when it revels in the fact that God is God, merciful and gracious and abounding in steadfast love.”

Joe Rigney (article: *Dangerous Compassion*)



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