

Becoming Centers of Forgiveness and Peace

Session 9: Moving from Isolation to Community

November 14, 2022 • Rev. Doug Gray

I. Introductions and Opening Prayer

II. Teaser

Have you ever helped a stranger in distress? Did things unfold the way you thought they would?

III. The Biblical View from Here: Moved with Compassion

- a. Hebrew Word — *hesed*
 - i. Steadfast love or mercy
 - ii. Covenant word — about relationship and keeping promises
 - iii. Jonathan and David (1 Samuel 18:1ff)
 - iv. Hosea and Gomer relationship — God's love vs. Ours (Hosea 6:1–6)
- b. NT Word — *mercy*
- c. Moved with compassion/pity (Gr. *splagchnizo*) — *See back for verses.*
 - i. Literally, "movement in the bowels" so a "gut-wrenching" experience
 - ii. "Moved" — action has to happen

IV. Watch for

- a. *Lawyer* — Expert in the Jewish law, not a secular lawyer
- b. *Eternal life* — Lit. *life for the ages*, a legendary life is one we enjoy with God
- c. Two Great Commandments — from Deuteronomy 6:4–5 and Leviticus 19:18
- d. *Justify* — lit. *make right*.
- e. *Going down from Jerusalem to Jericho* — yes, going down in elevation, and the road through the wilderness is truly empty until you get close to one of the cities. A great place for a trap and robbery!
- f. *Silver coin* — (Gr. *denarius*) about a day's wage, roughly \$100–150

V. For Reflection

- a. What is the lawyer trying to justify?
- b. Where is the grace in this story? Forgiveness?
- c. Why do you think Jesus ends this passage the way He does?
- d. Have you ever been in deep need? What was that like? Did help come to you? Was it expected?
- e. How does this story connect with our fall theme of "Seeking Peace, Finding God"?

VI. Conclusion

“Moved with compassion/pity” in the Gospels

Appears: Matthew (5), Mark (4), Luke (4).

Said of Jesus: 9x Used by Jesus in parables: 3x Reason for feeding 5000

Matt. 9:36 ^aWhen he saw the crowds, ^phe had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, ^qlike sheep without a shepherd.

Matt. 14:14 When he went ashore he ^gsaw a great crowd, and ^ghe had compassion on them and healed their sick.

Matt. 15:32 ^rThen Jesus called his disciples to him and said, ^a“I have compassion on the crowd because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way.”

Matt. 18:27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and ^fforgave him the debt.

Matt. 20:34 And Jesus in pity touched their eyes, and immediately they recovered their sight and followed him.

Mark 1:41 Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, “I will; be clean.”

Mark 6:34 When he went ashore he ^osaw a great crowd, and ^hhe had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.

Mark 8:2 ^m“I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat.

Mark 9:22 And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But ⁿif you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

Luke 1:78 because of the ^ttender mercy of our God, whereby ^ethe sunrise shall ^vvisit us^g ^ffrom on high

Luke 7:13 And when the Lord saw her, ^hhe had compassion on her and ^ssaid to her, “Do not weep.”

Luke 10:33 But a ^ySamaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.

Luke 15:20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ^rran and ^eembraced him and ^kkissed him.

Jonathan Edwards’ List of Reasons to Not Give or Help People Who Need It

Timothy Keller (*Grace and Justice*, 2010) draws our attention to Jonathan Edwards’ sermon, “The Duty of Charity to the Poor.”

- They’re not in extremity.
- I don’t have anything to spare.
- They’re ill-tempered and ungrateful.
- They brought this on themselves.
- They do not have upright, moral characters.
- They’re poor because they are selfish, lazy or violent.

How does the grace and compassion of Jesus provide answers to all these objections?