

Lives Marked by the Cross: Compassion

March 8 & 9

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort... (2 Cor. 1:3)

“Compassion”: (noun) a feeling of distress and pity for the suffering or misfortune of another, accompanied by a longing/strong desire to alleviate the suffering. From Latin *compati* (to suffer with) *com* (with) *pati* (to bear/suffer).

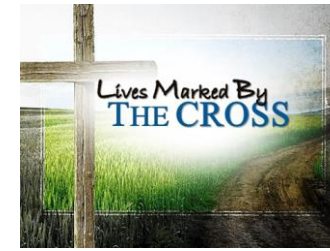
Personal/Small Group Reflections

- **Compassion**... how would you define it?
- Discuss times when you showed / received compassion.
- What were you feeling (as the giver... and as the recipient)?
- List common things present in these situations?

Large Group Teaching

- Mercy is the outcome of compassion (Good Samaritan).
- Compassion has its root in God's love and desire to provide all that we need... **forgiveness**/restored relationships... mercy.
- Lack of God's compassion is seen in His righteous judgment & call for people to repent and turn back to Him... a storm cloud.
- Do we want to show compassion? To do it... we also suffer.
 - i. **OT**: Isaiah 30:15-20 (The LORD longs to be gracious to you... to show you/Israel compassion).
 - ii. **NT**: 2 Cor. 1:3-7 (God is the source of compassion... the source of comfort... so we can comfort others... in our suffering).
 - iii. **Gospel**: Luke 7:11-17 (Jesus demonstrates compassion... for who? How?)
 - iv. **Other Readings**: Ps. 51:1, Luke 15:20, Lam. 3:32, Jonah 4:2b, Mark 6:34, Matt. 20:29-34, Ephes. 4:32

Application: What does this have to do with us/Church now?



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