

Men of Courage with Compassion

Moving out in compassion with bravery

Objectives

- What is scriptural compassion?
- How do we actually have/show compassion?
- Why do we need courage?

What is compassion?

- Compassion comes from the latin – *compati*
 - This means “to suffer with”
- What about compassion in the old testament?
 - *rakum (rachamim)* – comes from *rekhem* – “womb”
 - Means to be deeply moved in caring
 - 1 Kings 3:26 – “her bowels yearned upon her son”
 - In the scriptures almost always with action

Rakum (Rachamim)

- God is described with this word
 - Psalm 145:8

Psalm 145:8

The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger,
and of great mercy.

Rakum (Rachamim)

- God is described with this word
 - Psalm 145:8
- Examples of this in old testament
 - Micah 7:19
 - Psalm 78:38

Micah 7:19

He will turn again, ***he will have compassion upon us***; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

Psalm 78:38

But he, ***being full of compassion***, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.

Rakum (Rachamim)

- God is described with this word
 - Psalm 145:8
- Examples of this in old testament
 - Micah 7:19
 - Psalm 78:38
- God's compassion brings forgiveness/deliverance

Compassion in the New Testament

- Several Greek words translated as compassion
 - Splanchnizomai – from the word Splanchnon – guts
- The compassion of Jesus was directed toward those who couldn't help themselves
 - The outcast: Mark 1:36-38
 - The poor/defenseless: Luke 7:11-15
 - The hungry: Mark 8:2
 - Those the crowd told to be quiet: Matt 20:29-34
 - The sinner: Luke 15:20

Scriptural Compassion

- A very emotional response to need and suffering that then leads to action!
 - Resolving the problem
- God's compassion brings deliverance and forgiveness
- Jesus was our example of how to show compassion and to whom
 - The sinful, the marginalized, the outcasts, those without hope
- This is a commandment!
 - I Peter 3:8

1 Peter 3:8

Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, **be pitiful**, be courteous:

The first step to being compassionate

- At its core compassion is feeling/suffering with someone
- Starts with understanding what someone is going through
 - What they are feeling, what life is like, what they are like
- We can help others but if you truly want to be “moved” then you have to understand others like the child of God they are
- What are groups that Christ would show compassion to today?

Most of us live insulated lives...

- We are ignorant to what most of the world goes through
- We live very different lives than most in the world
- My profession
- How many of us have friends who are...

Elijah's story

- Let me start by describing Elijah

“Those people”

- We have to be careful about making another group into a “them” or “those people”
- People on welfare, liberals, homosexuals, drug users, etc?
- All people are the children of God and deserve compassion!
- We have missed our opportunity with many because we are a church too concerned with our own righteousness/correctness
- Our compassion should be dedicated to “those people.” To people like Elijah!

How do we put compassion into action?

- Spend time with people different than yourself
 - People at least 20 years different than you
 - The “weird” people at church
 - Those not involved at church
 - Your odd neighbors
 - Volunteer outside of church functions
- Make a plan for your personal life
 - As you get to know people you will find needs to address
- Make a plan as a branch
 - Brainstorm needs of the community

Some ideas!

- Come up with things you can always do (\$5)
- Budget giving
- Foster care
 - CASA, respite
- Take care of homeless
- Childcare
- Giving to foreign missions/going on foreign missions

A few notes...

- Don't do with the express expectation they will give their life to Christ or even listen to your sermon
- Make sure what you do is actually helpful
 - Granola and the homeless – why listening is so important
- If you feel like you should do something, that is likely God calling you to do it...
 - Not always easy
 - The outcome isn't always what you would like

Why men of courage?

- To have compassion is risky...
 - Elijah
- Many have the mistaken idea that if you work for God and do what He wants everything will be good
 - We can avoid a lot by living for the kingdom
 - But going into the world to serve is hard
- I Peter 3:8-14 and I Peter 4:12-14
- Suffering is a part of serving Christ

The idol of security

- For too long we have allowed our own (or family's) comfort/security to become an idol
- Anything that threatens either of those things we will not even consider to be what God is asking us to do
- Be willing to take the risk to keep the commandment
 - Caring for homeless or drug addicts
 - Moving overseas
 - Foster care – worried about your broken heart?
 - Elijah and risk

Be courageously compassionate!

- God has called us to be deeply moved to action to bring deliverance through Him to those who are outcast, broken, defenseless, and hopeless!
- Be moved! Go out! Learn about others! Let that lead you to be moved as Christ was and do His work!
- God has called us to compassion...
 - That is risky from an earthy standpoint
 - Not at all a risk from an eternal standpoint

Matt 10:38

And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones, a cup of cold water only, in the name of a disciple, verily, I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.