

## CHRISTIAN COMPASSION

### Matthew 9:36-38

**Introduction:** Of all the verses of scripture that describes the attitude of Jesus, this text is the best. The word "compassion" is a word which originally meant "to feel with." We have similar words in our language, "pity, mercy, tenderness, kindness, sympathy, etc.." The word "compassion" means sorrow for the suffering of others. The Bible describes "compassion" as when recognized, a zeal to help others is generated. When the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost the disciples had a burning zeal to preach the Word of God, they became compassionate. Jesus came to tell about His heavenly Father and said that God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son. How many times do we read that Jesus was moved with compassion when He saw the crowds of the lost people? Jeremiah the weeping prophet was compassionate. He said he wished that his head were waters and his eyes were fountains so he could weep night and day over the lost. Paul was a man with a bleeding heart and was concerned for the world about him. An evangelist was asked what was his secret in winning the lost and he replied, "they are going to hell, they are going to hell, they are going to hell."

### I. WHAT KIND OF CONCERN DOES TODAY'S WORLD HAVE?

1. Our people are suffering from "Compassion Fatigue."
  - Read the newspapers, watch the news, look about you.
  - People are murdered while others know, even see it happen, but don't want to get involved.
  - People get in distress but nobody wants to help.
  - People take others to court hoping to get money falsely, lying about the real events.
  - Our people are becoming a calloused, cold-hearted and immoral people with no concern for anybody except themselves.
  
2. Our church life is becoming affected by this "Compassion Fatigue."
  - Burning churches and persecuting Christians are not the only way to hurt Christianity. Being complacent, uncaring and not wanting responsibility is doing more harm than all church burnings and persecutions can ever do.
  - Our prosperity has robbed us of our aggressiveness which was once the trademark of Christianity in our country. We are more interested in our own selves than we are in the lost around the world.
  - **Revelation 3:14-16** describes a church condition God calls "lukewarm."
    - Coldness and sin on the part of church members has done something to compromise our message, to water it down, to cause the lost to look at us with a certain type of contempt.
  - Weakening our convictions has caused us Christians to lose face with the lost world.
    - We have no incentive, no compassion.
    - We have no love to reach out to the lost, only love for ourselves.
    - We have no love to reach down to help our backslidden Christian brother/sister.

3. Christians should be engaged in the world's biggest business and that is winning souls.  
*"...the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth..."*
  - We should be telling everyone we know who is lost.
  - We should be telling someone everyday of the saving power of Jesus Christ.
  - Our pastors should be challenging, daring, encouraging, and leading their congregations in winning the lost.

## **II. EVERY CHRISTIAN HAS A TWO-FOLD OBLIGATION**

1. Every Christian has an obligation to him/herself.
  - One cannot be responsible for others until he/she has recognized his/her own responsibility for him/herself.
  - Paul said: *"...every man shall bear his own burden..."*
  - Daniel said: *"...every man shall stand in his lot at the end of the day..."*
  - Paul said: *"...everyone must appear before the judgment seat of Christ that he may receive the things done in his body according to that which he hath done whether it be good or bad..."*
2. Christians have an obligation to other people.
  - This is the very spirit of Christianity: we are not to be just concerned for our own selves. When one knows Jesus Christ, then there is an obligation, a concern for others.
  - The Bible says that we have a responsibility to others.
  - The bible says that the blood of the lost will be on our hands if we fail to tell them about Jesus Christ.
  - We take our responsibility too lightly.
  - When was the last time you tried to be a good witness? We are called to be first of all good witnesses, then soul winning will follow.
  - Our responsibility is NOT to save, but to witness.

## **III. WE NEED TO SECURE AND MAINTAIN A COMPASSIONATE HEART**

1. How does one get a compassionate heart?
  - There must first of all be a personal experience of redeeming grace. One cannot possibly lead some down a pathway he/she has never gone him/herself.
  - This experience must be vital, alive, active, and fresh within one's own heart.
  - The world must be seen through the eyes of Jesus Christ. Whenever one sees the world as Jesus sees it, that person (we) will never be the same again.
2. Regardless of the size and population of our world, if we think of the prejudices, enslavement to so many different sins, spiritual problems, idolatry, false religions, empty lives, if we think of so many without the Lord Jesus and what He can do for them, then we will have compassion.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Someone has said that there is a "formula" in obtaining compassion and here is that "formula..."

1. Study the Bible for it reveals the present standing, condition and future of those who are not Christians.
2. Believe what the Bible says without trying to "adjust" or make it fit some popular notion of the day. Take the Word of God as it is.
3. Dwell upon the truths of God's Word about the lost condition of those without Jesus Christ until those lost take hold of you realize their true condition, damned, doomed, hell-bound.
4. May these thoughts set your heart on fire to go win the lost. They need to be loved, they need the love of Jesus Christ and only YOU can give them what they need.