

HARD HEARTED OR COMPASSIONATE?

Psalm 142:1-7 Key Verse: 4

Introduction: Here is the cry of a physically exhausted, discouraged man. Saul's insane jealousy had forced David to flee as a rabbit before hounds. He was a fugitive in hiding from the armies of King Saul. He would know no peace till Saul was dead.

It was only normal that David should become despondent. There were times that it seemed that he did not have a friend in the whole world, even the world appeared against him. In a moment of weakness, loneliness and despair, he found strength **ONLY** in God. (v. 4)

David utters the despair of his soul in a moment he felt utterly forsaken. He was sustained only by the inward assurance that God cared.

All over the world today there are people overwhelmed with loneliness and despondency, even in our own community. Is it possible that these people have the impression that no Church cares very much, even at all about their spiritual warfare? **MULTITUDES** have no inward assurance that God cares or is even concerned about them.

One doesn't have to take a survey to discover why. God's children have failed to be a witness to the world about God's compassion for all people.

I. BEING HARD-HEARTED, UNCONCERNED IS A SIN

Jesus was grieved and angered by the attitude of the religious leaders of his day (**Mark 3:5**). They were more concerned about traditions and ritual observations, etc, than ministering to the people's needs. Were they wrong? Let us look at our own record.

1. An unworthy, not like Christ, life on our part indicates a lack of concern for the unsaved about us.
 - The world cannot see Jesus in our lives - we are not reflecting Jesus.
2. The lack of loyalty to the Church indicates a lack of concern for the unsaved.
 - The Church is the only institution on earth with a commission to reach the lost.
 - Reaching the lost is the last on many Church priorities. Nothing is as important as doing what the Church is supposed to do - reach the lost.
3. To neglect the Church's worship services, to support inadequately it's programs, and to be so preoccupied as to be unable to be an integral part of its activities indicates a lack of real concern for the unsaved.
 - We are setting the example that the church is not important and all else comes before the church program, school, games, and so on.
4. Jesus' new commandment, "**...that we love one another...**" calls for compassion for one another as well as those without Jesus Christ.

II. WHY BE SO HARD-HEARTED AND UNCONCERNED?

1. Perhaps being so pre-occupied with the cares of the world and the responsibilities of life and being self-interested, striving for self-satisfaction contribute.
2. Perhaps forgetting what it feels like to be without God and having no hope causes unconcern.
- "I'm saved" so no more thought is given about others who are not.
3. Ignorance of the spiritual condition of those around, not really giving any thought about it will also cause unconcern.
4. Being so caught up by things, the devil has lulled Christians to sleep and they have become indifferent.
5. Also not staying at the cross of Jesus long enough to get a burden for the lost which includes no prayer life, no Bible study causes one to have no real concern for the lost.

III. THE CAUSE OF CONCERN

Jesus was concerned about the lost! He saw their real condition and He wept over them. He knew what awaited them. Christians need to see the world through Jesus' eyes. To do so will cause concern.

1. Without Jesus Christ, people are lost!
2. Without Jesus Christ, people are not God's Children.
3. Without Jesus Christ, people will miss heaven and go to Hell.

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF COMPASSIONATE CONCERN

David was upset that nobody cared for him. Jesus was upset because the leaders were hard-hearted.
- What if every Christian became concerned?

1. It will take personal time spent in prayer, Bible study and visiting.
2. One's talents and gifts will be used as God wants.
3. Support must be given to what the Church is supposed to be doing.
4. Telling others because there is something to tell.

CONCLUSION:

- Compassion compels action. God gave everything for us. What have we given for others?
- Become compassionate for others as Jesus was and is.