

SEEING THE NEED AND FEELING COMPASSION

"I delivered the poor who cried for help, and the orphan who had no helper...and I made the widow's heart sing for joy... Have I not wept for the one whose life is hard? Was not my soul grieved for the needy?" Job 29:12-13; 30:25

Do you remember what the Lord Himself had to say about Job? *"For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil" (1:8; 2:3)*. Wow! "There is no one like him on the earth!" And He didn't just say it once, but twice, once after great tragedy struck Job. How would you like that testimony? Obviously Job was VERY pleasing to the Lord, and if we also would like to have that kind of testimony, then it would be a good idea for us to study some of the characteristics of Job's life.

In the Lord's testimony of Job, we can see pretty clearly what Job didn't do; he was careful to stay away from sin or anything that would grieve the Lord's Heart. Satan had nothing that he could accuse Job with (including fear, I might add). God Himself said that Job was *"blameless"*. It's good to know what Job didn't do, but our highlighted Scriptures above show us a little bit of what Job did do with his life, time and energies. He was a man of heartfelt compassion for those who were hurting. To some very real degree, Job had tapped into what many of us are longing for: to be more like Jesus, to have His character living in us and shining through us! Perhaps one of the main things that we think about when we think about our Lord Jesus is His sinless life. All the way to the Cross, 33 years without one time grieving the Heart of His Father. Hallelujah! But if we were asked, "What do you think is the most prominent part of His character?", many of us would answer, "His love".

In Matthew 9:35-38 we find Christ Jesus going to different towns and villages, preaching and ministering to their needs. Look at His motivation: *"Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them..."* This brings us to the title of this small devotion. The more we are willing to SEE the need of the people, the more the Lord can help us to FEEL compassion for those who are hurting. This doesn't happen automatically. Many of us may be busy ministering to the needs of others, but rarely feel real compassion for them. Why? Are we spending time in the presence of our Father as Jesus did, so that we can stay close to the Father's Heart?

In Luke 10, the Lord Jesus gives us a parable to help us better understand what it means to love God and our neighbor. It's easy to say that we love God, but what is one of the main evidences of that? To love those around us. Most of us know the story: a man's beaten and left for



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dead; the religious (who truly believe that they love God!) pass him by, but a Samaritan was willing to LOOK at the need! *"But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion..."*

In this ministry to orphans, broken children and widows, perhaps most people are aware that it is the Lord's Heart to have compassion on their need. Don't misunderstand; there's many good ministries to sow into, and the Lord has not called everyone to support RHM. But the most difficult thing in this ministry is getting believers to be willing to look at and see the need that is there. I'm quite sure that if we would be willing to look at the need (and the opportunity!) square in the face instead of turning away, the Lord's compassion would be stirred in our hearts, which in turn would motivate us to pray, give or do something.

Like our Savior, Job did more than just live a life of moral purity. He didn't turn his head the other way, but was willing to look at the poor, the orphan, the widow, those without a helper, those whose life was hard, the needy, and he felt compassion. He wept for them. He grieved because of their pain, sorrow and loneliness. And he did what he could to minister to their needs.

I hope this challenges your heart (and mine). Do we have the compassion of Job? If Job was able to attain to this kind of life and character without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, how much more is this power and compassion available to us? *"...because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who was given to us." Romans 5:5*