

★ But Ye Would Not ★

4th - 6th Grade
Lesson 5

The Compassion of Christ

Jesus was very concerned with the people in Jerusalem. Because Jesus was God, He knew that something bad was going to happen very soon. He knew that the Temple was going to be destroyed by the Romans. The Temple was the place that the Jews met to worship. Even though the Jewish rulers did not like Jesus, He cared for them. He was trying to help them, but they would not listen.

Jesus showed compassion on the Jewish people. In this lesson, we are going to learn what compassion is.

What Is Compassion?

But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

—Psalm 86:15

The *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* says that compassion is “literally a feeling with and for others.” To have compassion means that you feel the same way someone else feels when he or she is going through something hard. Sometimes it is hard for us to understand how someone else feels when he or she is going through a trial. Some people feel bad, but they do not do anything to help. This is called pity. Pity is different from compassion. Compassion makes us do something to help. Jesus always helped people when He knew they needed help.

Christ’s Compassion for the Multitudes

Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way.

—Matthew 15:32

Jesus was very concerned for His people for many reasons. In Matthew 15, the Bible tells us that Jesus was filled with compassion because the people were starving. Many times the people followed Him for three days with no food. Do you remember when Jesus fed at least 5,000 people? He saw that the people needed food and decided to do something about it.

And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

—Matthew 14:14

Jesus was also filled with compassion when He saw how many people were sick. The Bible says that when He saw the people were sick, He was “moved with compassion... and... healed their sick” (Matthew 14:14).

And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.

—Mark 6:34

Jesus also had compassion on the multitudes when He saw that they were confused. He said that they were “as sheep having no shepherd.” When Jesus saw that the people needed direction, He began to teach them.

Each time Jesus saw that the people had a need, He did something about it. He did not just see the need; He also met the need.

Christ's Compassion for Individuals

Jesus did not show compassion only for the multitudes, but also for individual people. When Jesus went to Martha and Mary's house and found out that His friend Lazarus was dead, the Bible says, “Jesus wept.” Jesus knew that He was going to bring Lazarus back from the dead. But, He was still filled with compassion because Lazarus' sisters and friends were sad that he was dead.

Jesus healed two blind men in Matthew 20. The Bible says that Jesus “had compassion on them, and touched their eyes” (Matthew 20:34). Jesus also had compassion when He healed the leper and when He helped the widow. Jesus cared about individual people. And He still does. Sometimes we may feel like we do not matter, but Jesus cares about each of us!

Christ's Lessons on Compassion

Do you remember some of the stories Jesus told His disciples? He told stories to teach His disciples lessons.

The first story He told was about a lord who forgave a man when he owed him money. This was a picture of how Jesus forgave our sins!

The next story He told was about a Good Samaritan. This story was about a Jewish man who was attacked by thieves. He was hurt very badly. Two Jewish people walked by the man who was hurt and did not help him. However, a Samaritan stopped to help the man who was hurt. What is remarkable about this is that the Jews and Samaritans were enemies. This story is a picture of how Jesus cares for sinners.

The last story Jesus told was about a boy who left His father and went away. After he spent all his money, he came back to his father. The Bible said that his father had “compassion” on his son and forgave him. This story pictures Jesus' compassion on people who have gone away from God.

Conclusion

Jesus showed much compassion to people. When He saw there was something that needed to be done, He did it. That is what compassion is! If someone is sick in your church, you can show compassion by finding ways to help that person. Jesus had compassion. We should have compassion, too. We need to be more like Jesus every day.