

A Conversation of Compassion (Part II)

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Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. ~Philippians 2:5
Be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.
~1 Peter 3:8

Introduction: Compassion in Action

Compassion Defined: *your pain in my heart;* ~Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary

Compassion is a feeling so strong that it leads us to take action to meet another's need.



*Let us not love with words or tongue but with **actions** and in **truth**.*

~1 John 3:18

For the believer in Jesus Christ, it's the little things in life that matter—things that seem inconsequential but endure—like **lovingkindness** and **compassion**. In the end, we will be remembered but how much of Christ's joy we brought to others. Sometimes the smallest kindness—a compassionate action from a friend—can have the biggest effect.

Love: The Greatest Way: (1 Corinthians 13:4-13)

Are You Thirsty?

Setting: The Judean Desert

O, God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. ~Psalm 63:1

As soon as you enter the desert, you notice it's a very dry and barren place. In Jesus time, the road through the desert was narrow, rocky, and of sudden turnings which made it the happy hunting ground of thieves and robbers. It was one of the most dangerous roads to travel in ancient Israel. And if you were injured, help was far away. **The Parable of the Good Samaritan** took place on this road.



The Judean Desert and the Dead Sea from the highest point of the Mount of Olives

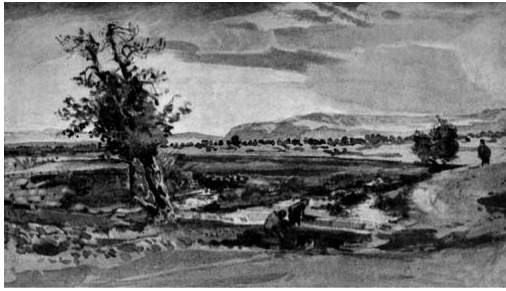
The Living Water

Setting: EnGedi ("the spring of the kid goat"—an ibex)

And David went up from thence, and dwelt in strong holds at Engedi. ~1 Samuel 23:26-29

In the middle of this desert is a beautiful oasis with living water. Around 1000 B.C., EnGedi served as one of the main places of refuge for David and where he wrote many of his psalms. Young ibex have always lived here near the springs. They still do. Remember the psalm David wrote: *As a deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God.* ~Psalm 42:1. EnGedi was also the setting for the love poem in *Song of Solomon*.

EnGedi is a picture of living water in the desert. To the Jew, running, living water was valued. And they often spoke of quenching the thirst of the soul with living water. Jesus uses this example with the woman at the well. He is fresh, living water that



gives eternal life in the dry and barren wilderness of the world.

Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give [her] will never thirst. But the water that I shall give [her] will become in [her] a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life. ~John 4:14

Satisfied

*All my life-long I have panted, For a draught from some cool spring;
That I hoped would quench the burning of the thirst I felt within.
Hallelujah! I have found Him; whom my soul so long has craved;
Jesus satisfies my longings, Through His blood I now am saved.*

~Clara Tear Williams

Setting: The Dead Sea

The Dead Sea is 45 miles long and 9 miles wide with 26 percent solid matter of dissolved salts at a depth of 997 feet. It's the world's most saline body of water—five times that of the ocean. No marine life can live here. The Dead Sea is at a record level of 1,300 feet.

This Sea is one of the most extraordinary places in the world, fed mainly by the Jordan River, receiving 6-7 million tons of daily influx with no outlet except by evaporation. In recent times, the Sea has been shrinking because its waters are evaporating faster than the inflow. In the last 40 years, the sea has lost about 30% and is divided into two basins. The Dead Sea is famous for the water's mysteriously buoyant qualities which allow you to float across the top. The lake is a light, turquoise blue, and surrounded by golden, brown hills.



Hills and valleys of the Holy Land of Palestine

Why Is the Dead Sea Dead?

Setting: Sodom and Gomorrah

Then the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens, so He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. But Lot's wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. (See Genesis 18:23-19; 29.)

Biblical archeologists believe the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah took place here, 13 miles apart. This area was once a rich, fertile landscape, a bustling city-state that survived for 1,500 years. What had once been an extremely fertile area became

completely barren overnight because the people had become so wicked that God rained down fire and brimstone in judgment—so hot and intense they destroyed everything in its wake. The cities were reduced to ashes.

With Abraham’s intercession and God’s **compassion**, He allowed Lot and his family to leave the city before the destruction. God warned them not to look back, but Lot’s wife looked back. And she instantly turned into a pillar of salt. At the southeast corner of the Dead Sea is a slab rock known as Mt. Sodom. These pillars, one in particular, is nicknamed “Lot’s Wife.”



River of Life

Setting: The Millennial Kingdom

This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arbah, where it enters the Dead Sea. When it empties into the sea, the salty water becomes fresh.

~Ezekiel 47: 8-12



The Dead Sea area will be refreshed one day. The prophet Ezekiel foresaw a time when the Dead Sea’s toxic waters would be transformed into a fresh River of Life flowing from the Throne of God in Jerusalem. Zechariah also prophesied of this. In the Millennial Reign of Christ, God will change the region to be again like a garden. What a **loving** and **compassionate** God! He makes all things new.

The Power of Compassion

Setting: Teachers’ Classrooms

For compassion to be “real,” it must be practical. It takes patience, kindness, and compassion for students to learn: *I don’t care how much you know until I know how much you care.*

You never know what one act of kindness or compassion can do for a student, especially a student who struggles in school. You have the power of compassion: **To teach is to touch a life forever.**



Compassion with Anyone

Setting: The Workplace

Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.
~Colossians 3:12

You can't change difficult people—but you can influence them as you put on humility. That's a piece of Christ's spiritual wardrobe we all need: *not thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought to think (Romans 12:3)*—because **we** might be that difficult person.



It is not our neighbor or co-worker with whom we must compare ourselves; we may well stand that comparison very adequately; however, *comparing ourselves among ourselves is not wise (II Corinthians 10:12)*. It is Jesus Christ with whom we must compare ourselves and in that comparison, we are all in default. That is why we need His strength, His power, to love others as He has loved us. We simply do not have what it takes to love difficult people without the help of the Holy Spirit . . . to see them through the eyes of Christ.

The Complainer or Critic

This is the person who thinks life's unfair or just likes to argue. They're arguing, quite often, for the argument itself—so they can win every time. How to deal with complainers? **It starts with empathy.** Get them talking about what's really bothering them, if you can, and ask questions about their life.

The Drama Queen (or King)

This is someone who dominates the conversation, chatting your ear off about all the wild things you will never believe are happening. Why do some people love drama? Because they want to be the center of attention. But the Drama Queen desperately wants your attention, and she's also terrified she'll lose it. Resent the urge to cut her off. It shows you're sticking around for the real her—no drama required.



Experts in management tell us that most people wear an invisible sign that reads:

**Please make me
feel important!**

If we heed that sign, we can succeed in offering compassion. On the other hand, if we say or do things that make others feel insignificant, we will fail. They may respond by becoming angry or resentful, because everybody wants to be noticed and made to feel important. Everybody. The Lord Jesus knew this.

Pray for those who mistreat you. ~Luke 6:28

No wonder Jesus' call to be compassionate is bound tightly with a call to prayer. How could He say to pray for our enemies? *Because when we were yet **His** enemies, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8,10). And He prayed for His enemies: Father, forgive them. For they know not what they do. ~Luke 23:34*



Yes, sometimes people show their hatred by avoiding or rejecting us, insulting us, just as they did the Lord Jesus. How should we treat our enemies? Just as He did. Love them, do them good, and pray for them. Hatred only breeds more hatred. You can come alongside co-workers and share Jesus Christ's love for them in the Gospel. Yes, we can succeed at work by promotions and raises, but here is the true meaning and purpose of life for the believer:

Acts 20:24 in 2024: *But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.*

Compassion (and Love) in Marriage

Setting: The Home

Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. ~Ephesians 4:32

Love Christ's Way: I Corinthians 13:4-6

*[Christ's] love **suffers long** and is **kind**. [Christ's] love **does not behave rudely**. [Christ's] love **rejoices in the truth**.*



The greatest threat to marriage is that love is just a feeling and when the feeling goes away, we might say, "I don't love you anymore."

Language of Love ~Dr. Gary Chapman

Each of us differs in our display of God's love—this is true of husbands, wives, mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends.

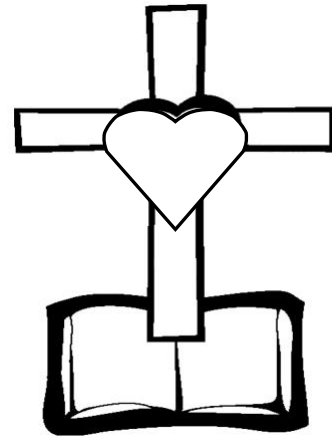


- 1. Words of Affirmation**
- 2. Acts of Service**
- 3. Giving Gifts**
- 4. Spending Quality Time**
- 5. Physical Touch**

The typical idea of love is far different from God's view. In our romantically-driven culture, we tend to believe that love is an irrational emotion over which we have no control; it's something we fall into. Marriage is wonderful and glorious, and it also needs God's love and commitment. Love is not just an emotion or a thought. Love is demonstrated.

God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ~Romans 5:8.

And that is why we have the Word of God to give us an understanding of what love is supposed to be. In Christ we are well-loved. He does not love us because we love Him. He loved us when and because we did not love Him. God's love was self-sacrificing. The cost of our salvation was His dear Son. The price of our redemption was the blood of Christ, which He willingly paid. God's greatest demonstration of love was when the Lord Jesus laid down His life for us. He proved His love for you at Calvary.



- 1. Love is Patient.** *Love suffers long* which means “to bear up in the midst of all kinds of challenges.” Long – how long? God talks about “waiting” all the time in Scripture.

I waited patiently for the LORD and He inclined to me and heard my cry. ~Psalm 40:1

Blessed are all those who wait for Him. ~Isaiah 30:18

Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart; Wait I say on the LORD. ~Psalm 27:14

It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

~Lamentations 3:26

- 2. Love is kind.** “Kind”—what a simple, homespun word, yet how beautiful! Oh, the kindness of God as seen in Jesus Christ! It's the little things we do and receive that show kindness.



Marriage is not a 50/50 proposition—that's performance based. You're keeping score. “If I do this for you, then you do this for me.” **Compassion does not measure; it ministers.** Marriage is 100%/100% each and every day. The Lord Jesus pours out His love unconditionally every day to us. The only way we can pour this love into our husband is if we abide in God's love—and trust Him to work in our marriage. If we try to do this in our own strength or resources, we will fail.

- 3. Love is not rude.**

No one is drawn to an irritable, cranky person—this does not build emotional warmth. Rudeness or sarcasm is a killer of love—it drains the love from the relationship. If this is you, address it, for rudeness will eat away at your love and marriage. Yes, we are all irritable at times, but what we do with it when it happens is what matters. Bring it to the Lord and confess your rudeness. He is faithful and just to forgive. God can change patterns that are detrimental to us. He wants to make us more like Christ every day.



- 4. Love rejoices in the truth.**

Truth is a big deal for a marriage to breathe and grow—truth in the big things and the little things. Love that rejoices in the truth builds the marriage upon total honesty—to be open and transparent with one another. Truth in marriage is essential for love to flourish. **Trust** is a basic foundation of any relationship. To have a successful marriage and an intimate connection, you have to trust each other.

How to Handle Addictive Behavior(s): Do not ignore it; avoid it; dismiss it. Confront it—to help your husband get free from the controlling behavior(s). You may need the help of your pastor or church leadership, or they may recommend someone.



*If a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one **in a spirit of gentleness** (kindness). ~Galatians 6:1 Everything is more effective and longer lasting when it's done in love rather than anger.*

Prayerfully make it your goal to set your husband free from the sin that is enslaving him. You're doing it with a heart of **love** and **compassion**—to help him and your marriage. As you draw close to God, He will draw close to you. The Lord has promised to be a very present help in time of trouble. Trust Him. His power will strengthen and sustain you. He loves you, your husband, and your marriage, and desires what is best for all three. That is the beauty of the Lord Jesus and a relationship with Him. He never gives up on you—or your husband.



I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. ~Philippians 4:13



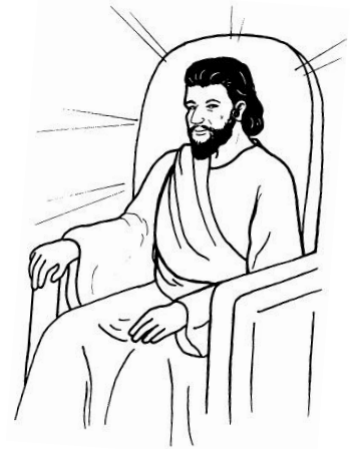
Compassion in Forgiveness

Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against you; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. ~Colossians 3:13

And wrapped within all relationships is forgiveness. But true forgiveness always involves pain. The Lord Jesus knows this. You have been hurt and there is a price to pay in healing the wound.

Forgiveness is not about the one who has faith—or the one we have forgiven—it’s about the One in whom our faith rests—the Lord Jesus.

He understands forgiveness because He has forgiven much. Forgiveness and love sent Him to the Cross of Calvary. And He has forgiven you. That’s the kind of encouragement the Lord Jesus gives us to press on—even in difficult situations. Our lovely Savior knows the cost, the pain, and the joy that comes from forgiveness.



*For the **joy** that was set before Him endured the Cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. ~Hebrews 12:2-3*

Conclusion

*I **besech** you by the mercies of God to present your bodies as **a living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your **spiritual service**. ~Romans 12:1*

I think this attitude would have a transformational effect on us—and create loving, compassionate connections with others—which is at **The HeART of Conversation**.

