

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Philippians 2:5-11**.
- B. From Roy H. Enoch (12-13-94).
- C. We need to define the word *compassion*.
 - 1. Our English word is from the Latin, "passio," meaning to suffer, and the prefix "con" meaning "along with."
 - 2. Therefore, the English word means, "to suffer along with."
 - 3. The Greek word involved the "inward parts" of man.
 - 4. Anyone who has experienced fear, grief, disappointment, distress and anxiety know how it can tie us into knots inside.
 - 5. Compassion is suffering internally w/others who have problems that they can't handle.
- D. The Scriptures describe the compassion of X.
 - 1. It comes from His dual nature of God and man.
 - a. He has the love of God for mankind, and gave Himself for man's salvation.
 - b. He has the experience of man in the weakness of flesh as He was "tempted in all points like we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15).
 - 2. Luke describes His concern for the down trodden: "The lost sheep," "The lost coin," "The lost son," "The sinful woman," "The tax collectors," "The lepers" and many others whom the Jews considered beneath their dignity to help (See 1Jn. 2:6; Mt. 14:14-16).

I. THE NATURAL MAN DOESN'T HAVE THE COMPASSION OF THE SPIRITUAL MAN.

- A. Mt. 12:9-14 describes Jesus healing a man w/a withered hand on the Sabbath Day.
 - 1. The Pharisees accused X of violating the Sabbath.
 - 2. Jesus showed their hypocrisy by pointing out that any of them would lead his animals to water on the Sabbath.
 - 3. Rather than repenting of their hard heartedness, they took counsel to destroy Him.
 - 4. They had more love for their traditions than for the needs of men.
- B. Lk. 10:30-37 describes different attitudes toward people in need and praised the Samaritan who helped the man in need.
 - 1. The priest and Levite saw him and went by on the other side (10:31-32).
 - 2. But it was the Samaritan treated his wounds, put him on his own animal, carried him to an inn, cared for him during the night, paid his bill and promised to pay more if needed.
 - 3. Jesus' application is, "Go, and do likewise." He is speaking to us all.
 - 4. Christ is not teaching that one w/o the law is better than one w/it, but that one without the law, with a spirit of compassion is better than one w/the law but w/o the spirit of the law.

II. CHRIST IS OUR EXAMPLE OF COMPASSION.

- A. He lived it (Mt. 9:35,36).
 - 1. They were w/o a shepherd because they had not really accepted the "Good Shepherd."
 - a. He had been healing, feeding and teaching them.
 - b. They followed to be fed and see the miracles, but they were not disciples.
 - c. Many "come to church" for social reasons, for business, or for entertainment, but not to learn what Jesus teaches or to do it as Cornelius (Ac. 10:33).
 - 2. He showed compassion when the widow of Nain's son died (Lk. 7:13-15).
 - 3. Jesus lived the compassion that he taught.
- B. He taught it. Jesus often taught us to show the same consideration for others that we want from the heavenly Father.

1. In Mt. 18:23-35 He described a servant who owed his master millions.
 - a. His master had compassion on him and forgave the whole debt.
 - b. The servant went out and found a fellow servant who owed him 100 days wages and would not have compassion on him but had him cast into prison.
 - c. The master learned of his harshness, and had him delivered to the tormentors.
 2. In Lk. 10:25-37 Jesus taught how to be a good neighbor.
 3. Luke 15 describes the concern that we should have for the lost w/parables of the lost sheep, coin and son.
 - a. He described the joy in heaven over one sinner that repents as being greater than over 99 who do not need to repent.
 - b. That is the love that we should have for the lost and our joy when they come back.
- C. He exemplified it. Jesus is our example in expecting compassion.
1. Jesus taught that His disciples should be like Him (Jn. 13:14).
 2. Jesus was not instituting "foot washing" as an ordinance of act of worship, but teaching that we should serve AS He did (Jn. 13:15).

III. **WE NEED TO SHOW COMPASSION TODAY.**

- A. We need to have compassion for physical needs today (1Pet. 3:8).
 1. Our compassion should go beyond brethren (Gal. 6:10).
 2. Doors have been opened in Europe, Russia, Africa and other places by showing compassion to needs.
- B. We must love lost souls to show spiritual compassion.
 1. We often hurt and drive away those hungering for the truth by our selfish, petty demands for our own way.
 2. Jesus shows what He thinks of that attitude by His denunciations of the Scribes and Pharisees.
 3. Let us show His compassion rather than their selfishness.
 4. We must also show His compassion for those who have wandered away as lost sheep (Gal. 6:1).
- C. **We must remove hindrances to compassion.**
 1. Some conclude that suffering is the result of sin (Jn. 9:1-2).
 2. Devotion to ritualism hinders compassion.
 - a. The Jewish teachers were slaves of their traditions and rituals of worship.
 - b. Human custom and tradition still blinds men to the truth.
 3. Preoccupation w/ourselves and our interests hinders compassion.
 - a. When we are too busy to do what God says, we are too busy to go to heaven.
 - b. When we are too busy to try to save others, we are too busy to be saved.
 4. Materialism and seeking pleasure hinders compassion.
 - a. This was a problem to the rich farmer whom God called a fool in Lk. 16.
 - b. It is also an important hindrance today.
 5. Failure to appreciate the individual hinders compassion.
- D. **Some suggestions about being compassionate.**
 1. Visit people at the hospital.
 2. Send cards to those who are ill.
 3. Look for things to do for your neighbors.
 4. Visit nursing homes.
 5. Help those who are handicapped and retarded.
 6. Remember the encouragement that you have received, and especially when you were not doing what you should, and encourage someone else.
 7. Try to cheer those who are discouraged: show appreciation.

8. Everyone needs compassion at times and appreciate encouragement.
9. Be optimistic and cheerful, and pay attention to those who are often neglected.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Appreciate the compassion of God and others.
- B. Pass it on to others for the greatest benefit.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.