**WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH - COMPASSION**

***PSALM 86:15 – TEXT***

**INTRODUCTION** – **READ – TEXT** – The psalmist acknowledges that we serve a God who is full of compassion. If God is full of compassion then it is certainly a characteristic that every Christian needs in their lives as well.

Brethren we need compassion. It needs to be part of our everyday life.

Compassion is a fundamental element in being able to deal with others properly. It is an attitude that not only determines whether or not we will do what needs to be done but it also determines the attitude and zeal with which we will approach the matter.

The purpose of this lesson is to examine what does the Bible teaches about the subject of compassion.

***WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH - COMPASSION***

1. **WHAT IS COMPASSION?** –
2. Defined – Webster as sympathetic consciousness of others distress together with a desire to alleviate it. Note how the word has two elements 1. Awareness of a need 2. A desire to do something about it.
3. NT definition –
	1. Oikteiroo - Strong’s 3627 – To show mercy and concern with the implication of sensitivity and compassion
	2. Splagchnizomai – Strong’s 4697 – To experience great affection and compassion for someone, it is speaking of that which lies deep within us and is referred to in the KJV as bowels or tender mercies in the NKJV
4. What is the source of compassion or where did it originate?
	1. **PSA. 25:6** – The Lord is the one who is full of tender mercies or compassion
	2. **PSA. 119:77, 156** – Tender mercies come from God
	3. Brethren we need compassion. We need to really show that we care about others. We need to be merciful in dealing with others.
5. **COMPASSION COMMANDED** –
6. **COL. 3:12 –** Paul calls on these brethren to put on tender mercies or as some translations render it hearts of compassion.
7. **JUDE 22 –** We are commanded on some to have compassion
8. **1 PET. 3:8 –** Says we are to have compassion for one another and be tender hearted.
9. **1 JOHN 3:17-19** – It is not an option for a child of God to shut up their heart to a brother in need
10. **PHIL. 2:1-2 –** If we have any affection or any mercy it is displayed thru compassion. Compassion is a key ingredient to brethren being united as they ought to be. A lack of compassion certainly leads to division.
11. **EXAMPLES OF COMPASSION** –
12. **MATT. 9:36** – Jesus was moved with compassion when he saw the multitudes of lost souls
13. **MATT. 14:14** – Jesus was moved with compassion when the multitudes followed him to a deserted place – 5 Loaves – 2 fish
14. **LUKE 14:1-5** – Jesus healed a man with dropsy on the Sabbath. He displayed compassion for him. He challenged their thinking concerning compassion by asking them if they had an ox or donkey that fell in the ditch if they would get them out on the Sabbath.
15. **LUKE 19:41-44** – As Jesus approached Jerusalem he wept for the city and the impending destruction that awaited it. He displayed compassion.
16. **MATT. 18:27-33** – Jesus taught compassion in the parable of the unforgiving servant
17. **LUKE 15:20** –Jesus taught compassion in the story about the prodigal son. The Good Samaritan exhibited the ultimate example of true compassion while the Priest and Levite displayed the example of a lack of compassion.
18. **MATT. 11:28-30** – Jesus extends his compassion to us
19. **HEB. 2:17-18** – Jesus is a faithful and merciful high priest because he knows what we go thru and he has compassion toward us.
20. **LUKE 18:9-14** – The Pharisee prayed in the temple and showed no compassion for the tax collector
21. **JOHN 8:1-11** – The Pharisees bring the woman caught in the act of adultery and Jesus shows compassion toward her where they had shown none. They were not truly interested in justice but rather in entrapping Jesus.
22. **WHERE COMPASSION IS NEEDED** -
23. **ROM. 10:1-3 –** For the lost soul – note the concern of Paul for Israel. How do we react to the lost souls we come in contact with daily? Do we care? Do we have compassion?
24. **ROM. 5:8 –** We need to think about the degree of compassion God had for our lost soul. We must not become calloused to their situation but rather be moved by compassion.
25. **GAL. 6:1** – Brethren sometimes fall. Sometimes they are simply headed in the wrong direction. Are we willing to warn them?
26. **JAMES 5:19-20** – It takes compassion to try to turn them back.
27. **2 COR**. **2:1-8** – Compassion is needed for the brother who repents. When one repents reaffirm your love for them… do not hesitate to extend compassion….be willing to accept them back
28. **JAMES 5:16 –** Compassion is needed for brethren who request our prayers and support and remember that **Matthew 18:22** – Says we should be willing to forgive our brother 70 X 7
29. For the needy - the poor, the sick, the discouraged. We need to be compassionate toward those less fortunate than ourselves
	1. **JAMES 1:27 –** Fatherless and widows
	2. **GAL. 6:9-10** – Individually do good to all but especially to our brethren

**CONCLUSION** –

Do we have the compassion we need?

In order for growth to take place (Mary Esther) we must display compassion to others

Are we all doing our part?