

Conformed to the image of Christ: Christ's Compassion!

- “Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and **compassion**;” (Psalm 103:4)
- Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you **compassion**. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!” (Isaiah 30:18)

I) The Meaning of “Compassion”:

A) In OT - “racham” mercy, tender love. Verb – “to have compassion, be merciful, pity.” Used 125 times in different forms, where God is saying “I will have mercy or show mercy”.

B) In NT – “esplanchnisthe” compassion or compassionate. Verb – oikteiro “to have pity, a feeling of distress through the ills of others; splachnizomai “to be moved towards the multitude or individual sufferers”.

C) Compassion is not only a strong inward sentiment, but is fully expressed when accompanied by an act of compassion.

II) God's "Compassion" according to Psalm 103!

A) His compassion is associated with His benefits! (vs. 103:1-5)

**B) His compassion as opposed to His anger and dealings with our sins!
(vs. 103:6-12)**

**C) His Compassion is as a father's compassion on his children! (vs.
103:13-18)**

**D) His compassion is for all who keep His covenant, who remember His
precepts to do them, who obey Him and do His will! (vs. 19-22)**

II) Christ's "Compassion" demonstrated in the NT!

A) His compassion for the "distressed and downcast/harassed and helpless," spiritually lost people! "Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.³⁶ Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd" (Matthew 9:35-36)

B) His compassion for those struck by tragedy! "When the Lord saw her, He felt compassion for her, and said to her, "Do not weep."¹⁴ And He came up and touched the coffin; and the bearers came to a halt. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise!"¹⁵ The dead man sat up and began to speak. And Jesus gave him back to his mother." (Luke 7:13-15) Ref: Resurrection of Lazarus (John 11:33-35)

C) His Compassion for the physically needy! “In those days, when there was again a large crowd and they had nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples and *said to them, ² **“I feel compassion for the people because they have remained with Me now three days and have nothing to eat.** ³ If I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way; and some of them have come from a great distance.” (Mark 8:1-3)

D) His compassion for the condemned and people who deserve condemnation! “Straightening up, Jesus said to her, “Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?” ¹¹ She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more.” (John 8:10-11)

E) His compassion for those still in the world and those who have repented! “So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.” (Luke 15:20)

“Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you **compassion**. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!”
(Isaiah 30:18)

“Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them,...Then He *said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. ³⁸ Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.” (Matthew 9:36-38)