

The Journey From Here to There Compassion

Introduction:

1. Last week we explored the loneliness of suffering and finished by asking, "What do you need from God or from others so that you don't feel alone in your suffering?"
2. This week's focus is compassion.
3. The Greek word often used to describe this compassion is the word "splanchnizomai." It refers to bowels and guts. The bowels were thought to be the seat of the emotions
4. Compassion, then, is to share in the suffering of others - to feel their pain in your gut.
5. **Isaiah 32-35** is our text for today
6. **Chapter 32 begins with the announcement of a righteous king** – prophetic of Jesus
7. When language like barren places or fruitful fields becoming forests it is speaking of the outpouring of the Spirit prophetically as the Spirit pours out on people
8. What God intends to do through the outpouring of the Spirit is to bring life to everything
9. So the Lord has assigned us as people that carry the Word of God to bring a reforming touch
10. **Isaiah 33 declares that wisdom and knowledge would be the stability of the times**
11. Literally in these times of tumult and chaos and such uncertainty the church that is inspired and led by the Holy Spirit is to be the place of stability
12. **Amos 7:8 "And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel;**
13. Wisdom is to make us communicators and imparters of stability
14. We need to be those who carry the message of hope for the future in our hearts
15. **Isaiah 34 has this great statement "and our sword will be bathed in heaven"**

Not a Formula

1. **Isaiah 35:1-2 "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God".**
2. **Verse 3 – 4 "Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."**
3. Here is the command how to serve people
4. The bible makes it clear that no has the right to claim love for God if it can't be demonstrated in our love for people
5. God does not make a differentiation between your passion for Him and a passion for His people
6. **V3 – one of the translations says "strengthen the wobbly knees. It is basically saying "come alongside a person who is finding it hard to stand bolster them up – shoulder them up and enable them to stand because of your own strength"**
7. **V4 – "say to the feeble heart – be strong fear not"**
8. The Book of Job and elsewhere in scripture gives us this idea that when we make a proclamation it marks them as a God target
9. God has created a system where we are supposed to live inter-dependent of one another

10 . So we should be willing to come alongside each other in times of difficulties

Be in a Community:

1. ***V4 “Your God will come with vengeance – with the recompense of God He will come and save you”*** - In other words – ***“He will vindicate you – He will fix this thing”***
2. ***V5 “then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped – then the lame man leap like a deer and the tongue of the mute sing for joy”***
3. The supernatural activity and invasion of God is most profoundly realized when a community has become a community
4. I must tell you that I am really tired of seeing Christians supporting unbelieving believers sin and call it compassion
5. Whenever the bible says ***“Jesus was moved with compassion*** you always see a miracle result
6. Sympathy massages the person in the problem - compassion leans into God
7. Biblical compassion always has the heart of God in mind
8. ***Luke 4:18 that He came to proclaim liberty to the captives – and recovering of sight to the blind and to set at liberty those who are oppressed”***
9. You must remember that everything in the bible is true but not everything is truth
10. ***Job 22:28 “you will declare a thing and it will be established for you so light will shine on your ways – when they cast you down you will say exaltation will come – then He will save the humble person”***
11. When there is a decree based on the revelation of God’s mercy and nature it draws God into a situation
12. ***verse 30 “He will even deliver the one who is not innocent – He will be delivered by the purity of your hands”***

Seeing beyond the Surface:

1. When you truly understand who you are and you know His forgiveness it does something in your heart
2. It is from that place you become discontent with what you see happening around you
3. ***John 11 –story of Lazarus***
4. Jesus knew what was going to happen and yet He when He sees their grief He weeps
5. Jesus was moved with compassion – are you?
6. Moved enough to do something about it
7. your encouraging words releases God’s favor

God’s Heart:

1. ***Lamentations 2:13 “What can I say for you? To what can I liken you, that I may comfort you? Your wound is as deep as the sea.”***
2. The writer acknowledges her pain
3. Suffering is shared i.e. a risky closeness
4. ***Isaiah 35*** is describing a community of believers who are possessed with the knowledge of God’s heart for people
5. In other words having a deep passion for people
6. ***Isaiah 35:6b “for waters will burst forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert “***
7. Everyone in this room has something to contribute in this moment before you leave the property and that is the true Holy Spirit inspired words of encouragement for another person.