

Cheltenham
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Moses More Than a Movie (4) **Compassion is a Verb**

Exodus 22:27

*... When they cry out to me, I will hear, for I am **compassionate**.*

God's name - El Rachum - The God of Compassion, the Merciful God.

What is Compassion?

Compassion comes from the Latin word 'cum' and 'pati', together means, "to suffer with".

Key Text: Exodus 4:27-31

Four Truths Regarding Compassion

1. Compassion starts with our Senses

Compassion starts with our senses – hearing and seeing.

Isaiah 42:18-20 - "Hear, you deaf; look, you blind, and see! Who is blind but my servant, and deaf like the messenger I send? Who is blind like the one in covenant with me, blind like the servant of the Lord? You have seen many things, but you pay no attention; your ears are open, but you do not listen."

2. Compassion Requires Obedience

Isaiah 59:15 – “... The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene ...”

God looks for those who will intervene and relieve the suffering. Who will do what they can.

3. Compassion Looks at What's In Your Hand

What's in your hand that could change the situation? Maybe it's an ability to write, to cook, to build, to speak, to work with numbers, whatever is in your hand, when you give it to God He will use it powerfully to convey his heart, His concern, His compassion.

4. Compassion Draws People To God

In a time of suffering people question:

- Whether God exists
- Whether He is loving
- Whether He is caring
- Whether He is powerful
- Whether He is Able
- Whether He is merciful.

Romans 12:4 - ... God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

What are the barriers to being compassionate?

Some common barriers include:

1. Compassion Fatigue

2. Too Busy to Care -

3. We Are Pain Avoiders

4. Don't Know How To Help

The Truth We Can't Ignore

Philippians 3:10 – I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like Him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Henri Nouwen in his book *Compassion* says:

“Jesus is neither a spiritual giant nor a superstar whose compassion makes us jealous and creates in us the competitive desire to get as far, high, or deep as he did. No, Jesus is the obedient servant who hears the call and desires to respond even when it leads him to pain and suffering. This desire is not to experience pain, but to give his full undivided attention to the voice of his beloved Father.”

Edmund Burke says *“All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.”*

Compassion is a verb, it's an action, otherwise it's just a word.