

NEWSLETTER 2022-2

To: My Fellow Saints

Date: April 6, 2022

Re: **Compassionate, Caring Christ**

Beloved, it is such a blessing and a great opportunity reaching out to you, sharing what God has laid on my heart for this newsletter. May God continue to bind our hearts with Christian love, joined together with fellowship that is more like that above.

It is that time of the year when the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ has been observed in so many ways. Today, we will briefly focus on the “**Compassion and Care of Christ.**” It was (is) God’s love, His concern for lost humanity why He sacrificially gave His only begotten Son to pay the ultimate price for our sins; it was a price He didn’t owe and a debt that we couldn’t pay.

There is a lot of hurt and suffering in the world, but there is someone who cares someone with whom we can freely share. Sometimes we tend to complain about everything and fail to give God thanks for His continued care and compassion, experienced in so many ways. Definitely, we have all experienced challenging situations and sometimes troublesome times never seem to go away; but it’s grace that has brought us safe thus far and grace will take us home!

While Christ is not literally on the cross, we do need to think of His agony and humiliation experienced during those dreadful hours leading up to His crucifixion. God, the Father saw it all but allowed it and Jesus endured it all so that depraved man may experience deliverance from sin and receive the gift of eternal life. Oh, Beloved! If that isn’t love, then the ocean is dry, and there are no stars in the sky!! Oh, how He loves you and me!!

Jesus’ mission liberated us from sin and its awful effects was not one of popularity and personal pursuits, in fact He was excluded from social and religious acceptance (see Heb. 13:13-14). We must do without the approval of the world and accept the **reproach** (Heb. 13:13) of Jesus, if we desire to find the **permanent city** (KJV uses **continuing city**) (Heb. 13:14) established by God (see Heb. 11:10). **(Read Heb. 13:11-14).**

Jesus suffered rejection and death, outside the city of Jerusalem, as an outcast to sanctify His people (He. 13:12), so that we would be presentable to God and could share in His glory (Heb. 2:11). **Today, God’s people are called to join Christ outside the city gate, to bear the disgrace that He bore (Heb. 13:13).**

Note the following briefly without comments (Not listed in chronological order):

1. It is a call to be **separated from** the world (2 Cor. 6:17).
2. It is a call to a **sanctified life** (2 Tim. 2:21).
3. It is a call to **share in His** reproach (disgrace Heb. 13:13) (Heb. 11:26).
4. It is a call to **set our minds** on accomplishing God’s perfect will (Matt. 7:21).

5. It is a call to **suffer with Him** and eventually reign with Him (2 Tim. 2:12).
6. It is a call to be **salt** in a corrupted world of sin (Matt. 5:13).
7. It is a call to **shine** as lights in a dark world of sin (Matt. 5:14)
8. It is a call to **stand up** (Eph. 6:14) and glorify God at any cost (Rom. 8:31-39).

Compassionate, Caring Christ Matt. 9:36.

Actually, the study passage is **Matt. 9:35-38** in which I have identified three main points:

1. **Call to Minister** (Matt. 9:35).
2. **Compassionate, Caring Christ** (Matt. 9:36).
3. **Colossal and Demanding Needs** (Matt. 9:37-38)

Obviously, our study passage is focused on the second main point in our text. As it becomes possible and as God leads, I will cover all these verses and add the lesson to our website (*again, this is as and when possible*).

“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd” (Matt. 9:36 NKJV).

A. Scores of People with Needs Matt. 9:36a

“But when He saw the multitudes . . .” (9:36a NKJV).

1. He saw those who followed Him from place to place.
 - (a) He saw their anxiety to be instructed and be saved.
 - (b) He saw their earnest desire to be enlightened and to know the things of God, which they seemed to be waiting for a long while.
 - (c) He saw that they were hungry and thirsty for righteousness.
2. He took notice of the **multitudes** not only those around Him that day but those He saw as He travelled around from place to place . . . note again **“multitudes”** (Matt. 9:36a).
 - (a) He saw the vast number of people on His daily routines, those in the towns and cities.
 - (b) He saw an abundance of people at the synagogue.
 - (c) He saw large groups gathered daily at the city gate who gathered for business transactions. The **multitudes** were everywhere and there were needy people within those crowds.
3. God sees the needs and will take action as necessary! **He cares!!**
 - (a) He saw that Leah was not loved and she felt ostracized (Gen. 29:31-32). **He still cares for the despised and rejected!!**
 - (b) Jacob the supplanter, was himself deceived and abused by Laban, but the injustice he experienced was not un-noticed (Gen. 29:31-32). **God still sees all acts of injustice and deception!!**
 - (c) The Hebrews were enslaved for 430 years but God saw it all! (Ex. 2:25; 3:7). **Beloved, God sees! God hears!! God knows the sorrows of His people; He surely will deliver!! (Ex. 3:8).**

4. God still sees (Psa.94:9; etc.), the atrocities, affliction, anguish, etc., whether it's in Myanmar, Ukraine, Russia, or any other country, or homes, schools, communities, etc. **God Sees It All!!**
5. Beloved, whatever are your challenges or your adverse situations God sees! He cares!! He will deliver!! ***Daniel's God surely will deliver!!***
6. "He Saw My Needs" . . . by the Grace Thrillers
He saw my need
He saw my Need He saw my need and rescue me. (Rep.)

There was a time when I thought
All the cares of the world were on my shoulders
I had reach the point of giving up
I could take it no longer
Then a good friend of mine said to me
Why don't you try Jesus (Jesus)
He's the Rock of Ages
He's willing and able to save us
(Thank You, Lord)

Since the day I met Jesus I can tell you
My whole life has new meaning
I don't worry, I don't fret, cause every day
He showers me with His blessing
If you seek Him now, you will find
His love coming through (Glory to Jesus)
He has changed my life
And He can do the same thing for you
(Now I'm happy to tell you this)

B. Sympathetic and Caring! Matt. 9:36b

" . . . He was moved with compassion for them . . ." (Psa.9:36b NKJV)

1. He pitied and was concerned for them!
 - (a) Brief definition of "*compassion*" . . . the Greek means:
 - (1) To have the bowels yearn.
 - (2) To feel sympathy, to pity.
 - (3) As used here (Matt. 9:36), the thought is that Jesus' heart was stirred with compassion –which literally means "suffering with."
 - (4) We may translate it more appropriately as: "He was gripped with compassion." That was Christ's immediate reaction to human need!!

- (b) Note the following quote from Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible (POSB)
"Compassion" (splanchnistheis): to be moved inwardly; to yearn with tender mercy, affection, pity, and empathy. It is the very seat of man's affections. It is the deepest movement of emotions possible, being touched with the deepest feelings possible. It is being moved with the deepest part of a person."
2. Jesus' ministry included a revolutionary message of the kingdom of God but it was built on and maintained by compassion.
- (a) The comprehensive factor of Christ's ministry was love; it was a powerful demonstration of God's love and was strongly illustrated in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. Chaps. 5-7, NB Chap. 5). His ministry was love; love that fulfilled the Ten Commandments (Rom. 13:10).
- (b) The governing mental and moral qualities of the body of believers was to be compassionate which is practically demonstrated by our love for others as such was exemplified by Jesus Christ.
- (c) The Jewish religious leaders were not receptive but scorned the common people because they were religiously illiterate (John 7:49); however, Jesus was compassionate, caring, taught the multitudes, fed them and healed the sick, etc. (Mark 5:1-17; 8:1-10; etc.)

Psa. 86:15 NKJV

"But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth."

C. Sapped, Shattered and Aimless Matt. 9:36c

"... because they were weary and scattered . . ." (9:36a NKJV)

1. They fainted; they were destitute, discontent and drained.
- (a) They desperately desired help for their souls but had no reliable leadership.
- (b) The Scribes and Pharisees were more focused on formalism and burdened them with the traditions of the elders (Matt. 15:1-20; Mark 7:1-23); as a result, these people were left in dire spiritual needs.
- (c) Beloved, precious souls will faint when duty is to be done, temptation to be resisted, afflictions to be endured and they are not nourished with the Word of God!

Due to time, we will have to summarize the remaining pointers and main point.

2. Jesus saw the crowd fainting; they were weighed down and ready to collapse.
- (a) They were weighed down by the demands of life, by their religion and by sin.
- (b) Note the following quote from POSB
"The crowds fainted, for they were deceived by their leaders, teachers, preachers, and priests. They had great confidence in them, but their leaders misled and deceived them. Therefore, they followed and lived in error, a road that leads to an empty destiny. They were empty and weary, perplexed and unsatisfied."

D. Sheep Without Shepherd Matt. 9:36d

“ . . . like sheep having no shepherd” (9:36d NKJV)

1. Jesus’ heart was stirred because He saw the crowds **“like sheep having no shepherd.”**
 - (a) As noted above, the religious leaders of Judaism were not fulfilling their responsible role as shepherds of the people; as a result, the sheep were **“worn-out and overwhelmed.”**
 - (b) King Ahab led Israel away from God and face the consequences as prophesied by Micah. The thought that we have in Matt. 9:36 also speaks of a lack of effective and reliable leadership (see 1 Kings 22, NB v. 17).
2. In our text, Jesus saw a dispersed people, wandering aimlessly about and not knowing the way to go!
 - (a) They may have tried several alternatives but they were all in vain; in their search they found no satisfaction, no purpose of significance in their religious life.
 - (b) The woman with the hemorrhage situation (Mark 5:24-34), she tried all known sources of medical help but found no help until her encounter with Jesus Christ.
 - (1) That same Jesus is reaching out with compassion to the weary and fainting (Matt. 11:28-30).
 - (2) Jesus is still saying: **“Coming Unto Me!”** *Partial quote:*

Verse 1

Hear the Blessed Savior calling the oppressed
 Oh ye heavy laden, come to me and rest,
 Come no longer tarry, I your load will bear,
 bring me every burden, bring me every care.

Chorus

Come unto me, I will give you rest,
 take my yoke upon you, hear me and be blest,
 I am meek and lowly, come and trust my might,
 Come my yoke is easy, and my burden light.

Verse 2

Are you disappointed, wandering here and there,
 dragging chains of doubt and loaded down with care,
 do unholy feeling struggle in your breast,
 bring your case to Jesus, he will give you rest.

Website Update

We have added in February Psalm 9, Parts A and B along with the answers for the review questions and February’s Newsletter. Psalm 10 parts A and B will be added possible late March

to mid-April. I do continue to encourage you to access these lessons and share them with others.

Accessing the website is functioning effectively through computers, laptops, tablets; it works well with phones for which you are advised to use for your browser Firefox or Internet Explorer.

Beloved, let us continue to pray for one another as well as family members and for the great needs that we see and hear of every day. Our hearts go out to those areas where the “Humanitarian Needs” are so heart rending!! This we do know that God cares and it’s our responsibility to continue to be make ourselves available to God to His honor and His glory.

Beloved, God richly bless you and your family!!

Yours-in-Christ
Bishop K. Wright