

Compassion For The Lost

Jesus gave us an example of what to do with sheep without a shepherd.

Mark 6:34

“And when He went ashore, He saw a great multitude, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things”.

I heard it said that how you feel about the lost, will determine the effort put forth in winning the lost and what you teach them.

We all need to have compassion for the souls of people we know, and people that we come in contact with.

Introduction

Most of us know...Jesus Christ came to this earth to seek and save the lost.

As His disciples and his followers, it should be our purpose to become engaged in this work with Him as He directs our lives from His throne in heaven.

This passage of scripture helps us to understand that in order for us to participate in the salvation of the lost with our Lord, we must feel what He felt, see what He saw, and do what He did.

Compassion For The Lost

The text says that He “was moved with compassion for them”

This tells us how He felt about them.

Compassion is defined by Webster's Dictionary as "a sympathetic consciousness of the condition of others with a desire to alleviate it."

The 4 gospel accounts show us that when Jesus was here on the earth, he had compassion for people in different situations and circumstances:

On this occasion, Jesus felt compassion because people were in a lost condition.

He had a consciousness full of sympathy with a desire to do something about it.

- He felt sorry for them.
- His heart ached for them.

The apostle Paul also had a great compassion and concern for the lost: (We see he wept for the lost—prayed for the lost).

- Acts 20:18-19,
- Romans 10:1-3

What do you think about them? How do you feel about them?

Do you have compassion for the lost?

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

Do you realize that the lost are precious souls who are out of fellowship with God and doomed to everlasting punishment because of sin unless they come in obedience to Christ and receive forgiveness of sins?

Truth is: We won't attempt to save the lost with Jesus unless we first feel compassion on them because of the seriousness of their condition.

Why Have Compassion On Them?

So why did Jesus have compassion on these people, and why should we have compassion on them also?

Well, this verse says, "they were as sheep not having a shepherd."

One of the notable characteristics of sheep is that they have a tendency to go astray:

Isaiah 53:6

When Jesus came forth and saw this great multitude, He saw them as sheep not having a shepherd; as sheep who had gone astray.

And the Bible tells us, that He is the good Shepherd who came to seek the lost sheep:

- Luke 15:1-7
- John 10:11

Without a shepherd to protect them, sheep are exposed to dangers from predators.

This is what we need to see in the condition of people who don't have Christ as their Shepherd:

1. They are lost
2. They are heading towards a pathway of hell.

Why Have Compassion On Them?

Without His protection, they're in great spiritual danger: 1 Peter 5:8.

Do we see what Jesus sees?

To help us save the lost with Jesus, we need to be impressed with the seriousness of the condition of those who don't have Christ to shepherd them to safety in eternity.

("Bring Them In")

What Did Jesus Do?

"He began to teach them many things."

The response that came from Jesus's compassion and His understanding of the people's condition was that He began to teach them many things.

Obedience to God is not limited to a few specific rules to follow.

It takes a lifetime of effort to fulfill what God wants us to do.

Yes, there are many things we need to learn.

What Did Jesus Do?

It's significant to notice what Jesus did NOT do

- He didn't entertain them
- He didn't try to lure them with social attractions
- He didn't seek to wow them with a charismatic personality
- He simply instructed them in what they needed to know

What Did Jesus Do?

First and foremost, Jesus was a preacher:

Matthew 4:17, 23

17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

(Yes, He healed people as a sign that His message was from God, but notice what is mentioned first indicating a place of greater importance; He went teaching in the synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom).

What Did Jesus Do?

In addition, He sent His followers into the world to preach the gospel: Mark 16:15-16 and that's exactly what they did: Acts 5:41-42, 8:4

And that's what He expects all Christians in every age to do: 2 Timothy 2:2.

What Did Jesus Do?

The primary thing that we can do to be like Jesus in saving the lost is to teach them the gospel as we have the opportunity.

Not everyone can be a full time preacher, but each of us must do what we can according to our ability and opportunity.

Conclusion

1 Peter 2:25

25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

Each of us was at one time were like sheep going astray, but because someone had compassion on us: they saw us as lost sheep in danger, and they taught us God's word we are now part of the Shepherd's flock.

As Christians, we need to have the same goal as our Shepherd: To seek and save those who are lost.

Are you as compassionate as you should be?