

Alton Baptist Church e-Service 7th June 2020

I have compassion for these people

This week on the theme - Jesus Said – “I have compassion for these people” Matt. 15:32

Matt. 9: 36 When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Jesus is full of compassion for us and this is shown in our first hymn in verse one when it says, “Jesus, Thou art all compassion.”

Song: Love divine, all loves excelling

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwHxRxER650>

Prayer: Father we praise you that you show such wonderful compassion to us who are sinners. So that, while we were lost in our sin, you sent your Son, Jesus, to die on a cross, to restore our relationship with you. Such amazing love that we don't deserve. We give you thanks for your faithfulness shown in so many ways. Yet we confess that we have sinned and we ask for your forgiveness and cleansing so that we can bring our worship and praise with hearts and minds cleansed by the power of your Holy Spirit. As we share this time looking at your Word, listening to songs and bringing our prayers to you, may this bring honour and glory to you in the name of Jesus. Amen

Song: Goodness of God

This is a new song to me but it reminds me of God's faithfulness and compassion shown in so many ways throughout my life. May you be blessed as you follow the words.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-f4MUUMWMV4>

Intercessory Prayer:

Let us pray for all who suffer, those who mourn, and for:- Each other – to **be** the people God wants in these days; for those in our Government – for **wisdom** in decision-making on policy for people, schools and our economy; our NHS & Carers; Pharmacists; Post-deliverers; Water and Food suppliers... Let us thank God for the extended furlough scheme and

pray for struggling businesses, especially those not covered within that scheme; for real discipline to '**stay alert!**' and for parents and teachers apprehensive as schools start to re-open... Let us pray that as individuals and as a nation, we will heed **Our Holy Creator God's** call through this coronavirus catastrophe – as with all catastrophes – to acknowledge, call upon and seek Him for forgiveness and wisdom to combat it... and to envision a kinder, more Godly society and economy emerging from it. Let's pray too for **rain** for our crops as farmers become increasingly concerned.

Let us pray. Pray as led by the Holy Spirit.

Song: Filled with compassion for all creation

Jesus has compassion as He sees the impact on our world during this time of pandemic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VA16UVgh7g>

Our theme this morning is, 'I have compassion for these people.'

Reading: Matthew 15: 32 - It is interesting to read this verse from different versions of the Bible.

NIV

Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 2 "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way."

Amplified

Then Jesus called His disciples to Him and said, "I have pity and sympathy and am deeply moved for the crowd, because they have been with Me now three days, and they have nothing [at all left] to eat, and I am not willing to send them away hungry lest they faint or become exhausted on the way."

Living New Testament

.....Jesus said, "I pity these people"

The Message

.... Jesus said, "I hurt for these people"

The Good News Bible

.... Jesus said, "I feel sorry for these people...."

As the different versions indicate there are many emotions and actions associated with compassion.

A feeling of distress through the ills of others and have pity.
To be moved as to one's inward being, to yearn, to hurt, to be sorry.
To suffer with others who are in distress, hurting, grieving or fearful.
To show kindness
Having a heart of compassion

From the gospels we read of the ministry of Jesus whilst He was on earth and we see in Him a wonderful heart of compassion that encompasses all the aspects of compassion.

In Matthew 15: 32 we see that He was concerned to meet the human need for food so the people would not be hungry lest they should faint on the way. It was not to show another miracle by feeding a large crowd to bring glory to God because the crowd had already seen miracles as mentioned in previous verses. We can be encouraged that Jesus is concerned about our basic needs. We can all look back and see the faithfulness of God in so many ways in giving us our daily bread. Do we really give Him the praise and thanks for His goodness as reflected in the song, Goodness of God?

Matthew 20: 32 – 34. Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. 33 "Lord," they answered, "we want our sight." 34 Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

This passage shows us the depth of Jesus's compassion in that not only does He give them sight to see physically but He gives them spiritual insight and they become his followers. This will open up a new way of life for them.

Jesus had a ministry of healing but His prime ministry is to restore our relationship with the Father. This should encourage us to recognise that as ambassadors of Jesus we too should have a heart for evangelism to bring others to the Father.

In Luke 7: 11 – 14 Jesus Raises a Widow's Son verse 13 When the Lord saw her, His heart went out to her and He said, "Don't cry."

Jesus has a heart that reaches out to comfort those in distress. He sets an example to us. We all have a propensity to focus on ourselves and our needs and pleasure but we are all moved when we see acts of compassion. In recent days we have seen selfless acts as doctors, nurses, carers and other key workers reach out with compassion to love and care for the sick and vulnerable.

Throughout the gospels there are many other examples given showing the wonderful compassion of Jesus and when we read them it encourages us to want to be more like Him.

In 1 Peter 3: 8 Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be **compassionate** and humble.

In the last song the chorus says, “give us compassion we pray”

Prayer

Father we thank you that in these passages of scripture we have seen a glimpse of the amazing acts of compassion shown by Jesus. So fill our hearts and minds, by the power of the Holy Spirit that we in the coming days will reach out to others with acts of compassion. Be that through prayer, a telephone call, a kind word of comfort or some other helpful deed. In Jesus Name. Amen

Song: Beauty for brokenness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OaMPE53uP38>

Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no man evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all men; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit,

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.
Amen.

An additional blessing from kids.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiWZXLsdE9w>