

w/b 5th August 2018 - Is the Character of Compassion working in you?

Here is how you can find out. Take a careful look at this character and fruit of Compassion from God's Word by examining the passages below. Now ask yourself:

1. How do I exhibit Compassion in my daily life?
2. What can I do to develop a better attitude of Compassion?
3. What blocks Compassion from working and being exhibited in me?
4. How can I make Compassion function better, stronger, and faster, even in times of uncertainty and stress?

Compassion (Job 29:13; Isa. 40:11; Mark 1:41; Luke 10:25-37; 19:4; 1 Peter 3:8) will allow us to feel the pain and plight of others, to see from their perspective and situation in life. It will enable us to convey a deep feeling of love and concern that moves us to meet their distresses, struggles, and needs. This all flows from our understanding of who God is, and our obedience, trust in, and gratitude for what He has done for us. (Luke 10:36-37; Eph. 4:23). Our lives must be motivated by who we are in Christ, and nothing else!

Lack of sympathy, Coldness and Thoughtlessness are the opposites. *Unmerciful*, in Scripture, usually refers to those who are unmerciful to the poor. However, it also means people who are without compassion, who do not feel for the distresses of others, and those who cause these distresses. These are all opposites of what God does with us, and how He calls us to respond to others.

- Here are positive examples from Scripture:

2 Sam. 9:1-13; Luke 10:25-37; Luke 15:18-24; Luke 18:35-43; 1 Cor. 13; 1 John 4:7-21

- Here are negative examples from Scripture:

1 Kings 12:12-15; 1 Kings 21:5-15; Matt. 18:23-35; John 19:1-16

Further Questions

1. How would you define Compassion? Is it a duty, or does it flow naturally?
2. What are the things that cause you to be unsympathetic with others?
3. How does Thoughtlessness counteract Compassion?
4. What happens to our relationships with God and others when we are cold and uncaring?
5. When have you been filled with Compassion the most?
6. In what situation did you fail to be Compassionate when you should have been?
7. What issue is in your life that would improve with more Compassion?
8. Think through the steps you need to take to put Compassion into action in a specific instance, such as going to someone who has been hurt, seeking resolution and healing. Ask yourself, 'How can I develop this character further so God can better use me in the lives of others?'