

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

JESUS SHOWED COMPASSION

Luke 4:40-41 "Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to Him, and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them. And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But He rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that He was the Christ."

From Genesis to Revelation, sixty times the compassion God/Jesus has for His creation, especially His highest creation, all of humanity is mentioned in the Bible. Jesus was sympathetic and showed great compassion for those who were ill, lame, blind, hungry and dealing with death. He had compassion for those who were unbelievers. The Bible says that Jesus had compassion on the people because "They were like sheep without a shepherd." (Mark 6:34)

In Luke 4:40-41, even though the day was fast ending, Jesus, even though He was true man, did not "watch the clock." He ministered into the evening. Luke says that He "laid His hands on every one of them and healed them." In addition to healing the sick, he again drove out demons from those possessed. Jesus always took time to address the physical, as well as the spiritual needs of the crowds that formed wherever He was.

Compassion is part of God's character. In the Old Testament we read of Yahweh's promise to Israel to show them compassion, "And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." (Exodus 33:19) And, in the New Testament likewise tells us of God the Father's compassion, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

To this very day Jesus continues to show compassion. You read in yesterday's devotion where He, in His compassion, invites you to "cast all of your cares (anxieties, burdens) upon Him and He will take care of you." (1 Peter 5:7) Moved

by His love for you no need you have is too great or too small. The time of day when you need Him, He is ready to minister to you because of His great love. Because of His unconditional love for you He shows you His compassion.

Prayer: Your love for me, dear Jesus, is so great and Your compassion so complete that You heal my diseases, forgive my sins and You shepherd me through my life journey to life everlasting. Thanks and praise be to You! Amen.

Jesus! Thou art all compassion, Pure unbounded love Thou art,
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter ev'ry longing heart!
Breathe, O Breathe Thy loving spirit, Into every troubled breast,
Let us all in Thee inherit, Let us find Thy promis'd rest.
(Charles Wesley, public domain)