



# Compassion

Ps Andrew Cavanagh  
Sunday morning 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016

## God's character

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### Exodus 34:6

*Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;*

### Deuteronomy 4:31

*For the LORD your God is a compassionate God; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them.*

## Compassion towards Job

3

James 5:10 & 11

*As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.*

## God's action

4

**Hosea 11:3-9**

*Yet it is I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them in My arms; But they did not know that I healed them. <sup>4</sup> I led them with cords of a man, with bonds of love, And I became to them as one who lifts the yoke from their jaws; And I bent down and fed them. <sup>5</sup> They will not return to the land of Egypt ... they refused to return to Me ... My heart is turned over within Me, all My compassions are kindled. <sup>9</sup> I will not execute My fierce anger; I will not destroy Ephraim again. For I am God and not man, the Holy One in your midst, And I will not come in wrath.*

## The old comparison

5

### 1 Samuel 15:22-23

*Samuel said, "Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, to heed than the fat of rams. <sup>23</sup> "For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from being king."*

## God's view

6

### Hosea 5:15-6:6

*I will go away and return to My place Until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me. <sup>6:1</sup> "Come, let us return to the LORD. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us. <sup>2</sup> "He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, That we may live before Him. <sup>3</sup> "So let us know, let us press on to know the LORD. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; And He will come to us like the rain, Like the spring rain watering the earth." <sup>4</sup> What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? For your loyalty is like a morning cloud And like the dew which goes away early ... <sup>6</sup> For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, And in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.*

## The new comparison

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### Matthew 9:13

*But go and learn what this means: 'I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT SACRIFICE,' for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.*

### Matthew 12:7

*But if you had known what this means, 'I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT A SACRIFICE,' you would not have condemned the innocent.*

## The Good Samaritan

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### Luke 10:33-37

*But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion,<sup>34</sup> and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him.<sup>35</sup> "On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.'<sup>36</sup> "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbour to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?"<sup>37</sup> And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."*

## Sin ≠ Judgement

9

### Luke 13:1-5

*Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> And Jesus said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans because they suffered this fate? <sup>3</sup> "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup> "Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."*

## Woe to the Pharisees & Lawyers

10

### Matthew 23:23

*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.*

## Put on Compassion

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### Colossians 3:12-14

*So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. <sup>14</sup> Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.*

## Lack of Compassion

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### Matthew 18:23 - 27

*The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup> "When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. <sup>25</sup> "But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. <sup>26</sup> "So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.' <sup>27</sup> "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. "But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.'*

## Lack of Compassion

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### Matthew 18:28 - 35

<sup>29</sup> "So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.' <sup>30</sup> "But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. <sup>31</sup> "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. <sup>32</sup> "Then summoning him, his lord said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup> "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. <sup>35</sup> "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

## The Prodigal Returns

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### Luke 15:20 - 32

So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him ... bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate ... "But he became angry and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and began pleading with him. <sup>29</sup> "But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends; <sup>30</sup> but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.'

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*Competitive Comparison Kills Compassion*