BLESSED HOPE



BIBLE CHURCH

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Learning ...

Loving ...

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Living ...

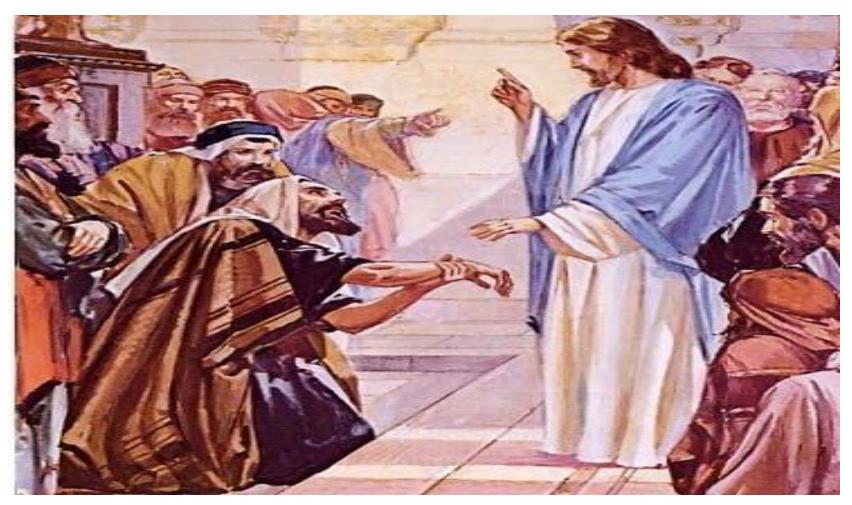
Leading ...

By the Word of God



THE OIRACLES OF JESUS

Jesus: Our Example of Compassion



Jesus Heals the Man with the Withered Hand Matthew 12:1-14 (cf., Mark 3:1-5; Luke 6:6-11)

INTRODUCTION

- It is the Lord's will that all believers show compassion to others.
 - It is God's will that we take care of our needs and the needs of our family (if a man will not work, he should not eat), but it is also God's will that all of us show compassion to those less fortunate than ourselves (e.g., it is not God's will that we live only for our own selves).
 - God wants us to study the Bible, to pray, to worship, and to be involved in church related activities, but He also God wants us to show kindness to those who are in need.

 God is not asking us to be foolish, or to be used or manipulated by others, or to enable someone in laziness or some vice; or to go into bankruptcy for others, or the violate any moral commandments,
<u>BUT</u> He is asking us to be compassionate.



- SERMON LESSON: The Lord Jesus Christ shows us that any time is always a good time to be compassionate.
 - From the healing of the man with the withered hand, we will learn two key principles that should motivate us to be compassionate at any time.

I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me

PRINCIPLE #1: JESUS SHOWS US THAT LEGALISM <u>HINDERS</u> COMPASSION

- **The Text:** The man with a withered hand in the synagogue service.
 - In Matthew 12:10 the religious leaders asked Jesus if it was lawful to heal on the Sabbath (e.g., they were looking for a cause to accuse Him).
 - In Mark 3:3-4 and Luke 6:8-9 Jesus turns the tables on them.
 - First, He called the man with the withered hand to come forward.
 - Next, He asked if it was lawful to do good on the Sabbath or to do evil, to save life or to kill.
 - Note: This was a test to allow them to see if their love for God was real (e.g., love for God will naturally lead to love for one's neighbor).

- The Teaching: Legalism hinders compassion
 - Legalism refers to unbending strictness to manmade rules and Traditions
 - For the Jew, the Sabbath day had important religious significance:
 - It was a testimony to God the Creator who rested on the 7th day after the 6 day creation (Gen.2:2-3; cf., Ex.20:8-11).
 - It was a symbol of Israel's covenant relationship with God (Ex.31:12-17)
 - It was a reminder of Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage (Deut.5:12-15).
 - The purpose of the Sabbath was to be a blessing (e.g., it was a time of rest and relaxation and restoration of strength—for man, servants, animals, and even the land).
 - Man-made traditions turned the blessing of the Sabbath into a burden (e.g., due to a long list of do's and don'ts).

- Legalism can lead to doing evil
 - The Jewish rabbis taught that a sick person could be given help and relief on the Sabbath day <u>only</u> if his life was in danger (e.g., It was obvious that the case of the man with the withered hand was not urgent or life threatening--his treatment could easily has been postponed until the Sabbath was over.
 - These Jewish leaders have a problem with Jesus because He is healing people on the Sabbath day (e.g., the Gospels record seven miracles that Jesus performed on the Sabbath day—and Jesus performed these miracles of healing on the Sabbath day on purpose).
 - These religious leaders want to build a case against Jesus (e.g., they wanted to publicly show that Jesus is a false teacher and thus did not come from God).
 - **Point**: Legalism, based on strictness to human traditions, forbids good actions, and therefore condones evil.

- Legalism can lead to hypocrisy
 - In Matthew 12:11-12 ask the religious leaders if they would rescue one of their sheep that fell into a pit on the Sabbath.
 - To give aid to a sheep and not a afflicted man on the Sabbath would make the sheep of greater worth than a human being.
 - Notice carefully: If we claim to love God, but refuse compassion to those in need, we lie, and do not know the truth (c.f., 1John 3:16-18).
 - Remember: God is not asking us to be foolish, or to be used or manipulated by others, or to enable someone in laziness or some vice; or the violate any commandments, <u>BUT</u> He is asking us to be compassionate.

PRINCIPLE #2: JESUS SHOWS US THAT LIBERTY IN CHRIST <u>HELPS</u> COMPASSION

- **THE TEXT**: Jesus heals the man with the withered hand.
 - Mark 3:1-5 and Luke 6:6-11 tell us that Jesus was angry a grieved by the hardness of heart in the synagogue against doing good on the Sabbath.
 - Jesus' healing of the man with the withered hand was proof that it was good to do good even on the Sabbath.
 - Unfortunately, the Pharisees plotted with their enemies the Herodians to destroy Jesus (e.g., they used the healing on the Sabbath as evidence that Jesus was a false teacher, a deceiver of the people, and a dangerous man that needed to be destroyed).

- **THE TEACHING:** The believer is free in Christ to be compassionate at any time.
 - Fact: The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
 - In the O.T. the law did NOT give anyone salvation, but it was the standard to maintain the covenant relationship with God
 - The believer in Christ died to the law with Christ (Rom.7:1-4), the law is therefore NOT a means to get saved or stay saved!!
 - The law is holy, righteous, just, and good, it reveals the holy standards of God based on His holy character—it reveals what sin look like and how sinful sin really is, however, it cannot help anyone become the truly good person that God intends them to be
 - The believer in Christ is not saved by the law nor does he/she stay saved by the law—he is <u>saved</u> by grace through faith in Christ and <u>lives</u> by faith in the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit (e.g., freedom from the law and its condemnation is NOT a license to sin).
 - **Point:** The believer in Christ is free in Christ to be compassionate at any time to any body (e.g., a believer does not show compassion to get saved or stay saved)!!

- Explanation: Liberty in Christ includes three ideas

- Idea #1: It includes the freedom to follow <u>established</u> <u>customs</u>
 - Illustration: Notice that the Lord Jesus attended synagogue service; that was His custom (Luke 4:16)
 - If our Lord had wanted to use reasons for not going to the Sabbath synagogue service, such as those often heard today for not attending public worship, He could have found many (e.g., He did not need the message because He is God)
 - Nevertheless, our Lord went to the Sabbath synagogue service regularly.
 - Point: Christian liberty in Christ, properly understood, does not free one from regular responsibilities--and that includes attending worship services (Heb.10:25), Bible study, prayer, evangelism, and acts of good works of compassion.

- Idea #2: It includes the freedom to break from man-made tradition in order to do good to others
 - What can and cannot be done on Sunday is still debated among believers, just like what can and cannot be done on the Sabbath was debated among Jewish leaders.
 - Note the key element: "man-made traditions." Any man-made tradition or custom can be set aside in order to do good for others.
- **Idea #3:** It includes the freedom to willfully respond to another out of love for Christ and for one's fellow man.
 - Jesus willfully healed the man with a withered hand to prove a point—that is O.K. to do good on the Sabbath.
 - The man with the withered hand did not deserve to be healed, his healing was based on the grace of the Lord and His sovereign, willful, determination (e.g., the man did not even ask to be healed, his healing was a surprise to him!)
 - Point: God is not going to force you to be compassionate; He wants us to willfully show compassion out of love for Him (e.g., the ones we show compassion have no "rights" to our compassion—it is a free, willful act on our part).

A CHALLENGE FOR YOU Jesus is our example of compassion



Will You Follow His Example?

RECEIVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOUR TODAY!!



- Acknowledge that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, <u>died</u> on the cross for your sin, and that He <u>arose</u> again from the dead on the third day.
- 2. Admit that you are a sinner, guilty of sin and responsible and accountable to a holy God for your sin, and that you are under His just condemnation and eternal punishment for your sin.
- **3. Accept** the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour by **receiving** His provision of salvation through your faith in Him alone.