

Session 4 Jesus' Love Far Outweighs Your Mistakes and Misfortunes

I. GOD'S SUPERNATURAL LOVE

- A. God's "SUPER-Natural" love goes far above and beyond your natural thinking, feeling, abilities and ways of receiving and expressing love, superseding all other types of love this world offers.
- B. God's SUPER-Natural love encompasses His SUPER-Natural compassion, mercy, and grace. It is Who He is and how He operates. And what is so beautiful about it, is that it is available to ALL people – all who come to Him with their needs. (Psalm 145:9; Acts 10:38)
- C. The passion you have for God will be seen in your compassion, mercy, and grace that you extend towards yourself and others.
- D. Ways to activate God's love:
 - 1. Prayerfully meditate on God's love (His compassion, mercy, and grace) as you read the Bible, especially the Gospels, allowing God's Word to reshape how you think, feel, and act towards God, yourself, and others.
 - 2. Practice two-way journaling, as described in "Hearing God's Voice".
(Visit our website listed at the bottom of this page. Click on "Topics" – "Hearing God's Voice".)
 - a. As you read see how Jesus moved with compassion, showing mercy and grace, towards all who came to Him. Place yourself and/or others within the scenes.
 - b. Ask Jesus, "What are you thinking and feeling about _____ (me, another person or a situation)?"
 - c. As God shares His heart with you, follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit and allow Him to transform you.

II. GOD IS LOVE – COMPASSION, MERCY & GRACE

- A. God's Self-Proclaimed Name in Old Testament is Love
Exodus 34:6 NKJV The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth...
Exodus 34:6 NASB 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..."
- B. Jesus Proclaims God is our Father
 - 1. When Jesus taught us to pray, in what is known as the "Our Father" prayer, He declares a new reality to the world, that we are to address God as our Father.
Matthew 6:9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

2. What does a good father do? He gives good gifts for his child.

Matt. 7:11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

3. Why does a good father do this? Because of his great love for his child.

C. The Apostle Paul Declares God's Name

The apostle Paul, whose life was radically transformed by God's mercy, declares God as the "Father of mercies," (2 Cor. 1:3) putting together these two concepts of how we are to perceive God.

2 Corinthians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort...

III. GOD'S COMPASSION

A. Compassion Defined

Webster 1828 dictionary: "A heart that is tender and easily moved by the distresses, sufferings, wants and infirmities of others."

B. How did Jesus' compassion influence His life and ministry?

Jesus felt the needs and suffering of those He ministered to such an extent that it moved Him to meet the needs and relieve the sufferings of all those who came to Him during His earthly ministry.

C. Jesus's compassion was SUPER-Natural. His compassion was filled with

1. Supernatural power-packed actions
2. An abundant supply of supernatural resources from heaven

D. Underline why Jesus was so compassionate and what the results were?

Acts 10:38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

E. What was the final outcome of Jesus' compassion?

Jesus went to the cross for us and as us, taking our place so we would not need to suffer from eternal death and destruction, being eternally separated from God.

F. And God's compassion moved Him throughout the Bible, as stated in Psalm 103:3-5 to bring salvation to our lives, and as clearly stated for both the forgiveness of sin and the healing of diseases.

Psalm 78:38 But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and did not destroy them.

Matthew 14:14 and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.

IV. GOD'S MERCY

A. How is mercy related to compassion?

In the Old Testament and the New Testament the words translated as mercy and compassion are often derived from the same Hebrew or Greek word.

B. What is mercy?

1. Mercy is basically not getting what you deserve because of sin.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death...

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..

2. Mercy – “Jesus’ Love Far Outweighs Your Mistakes and Your Misfortunes”, the title of this session.
 - a. Your Mistakes – Your own personal sin.
 - b. Your Misfortunes – Consequences you are suffering from the sins done against you or consequences of sin that came into this world and that you were born into through the first Adam’s sin.
3. Mercy is God redeeming you from the curse - the consequences of sin. (Gal. 3:13) See the listed curses in Deut. 28 to understand all you have been redeemed from.

V. GOD'S GRACE

A. What is Grace?

1. Grace is God’s unearned, undeserved and unmerited favor.
2. Grace is God giving you what you don’t deserve, which is Jesus and His inheritance. (Rom. 8:17: John 1:14)
G.R.A.C.E – God’s Riches at Christ’s Expense – Psalm 103:3-5 Benefits
3. The mercy seat in the tabernacle of the Old Testament that hosted God’s presence became God’s throne of grace through Jesus’ sacrificial work of the cross.
4. Under the New Covenant made by Jesus’ blood you are invited to boldly come to God’s throne of grace to receive 2 things: mercy and grace. When? In your time of need

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

VI. JESUS' HEALING MINISTRY FILLED WITH GOD'S COMPASSION, MERCY, AND GRACE

A. Responsorial to Jesus' Love in Action

1. After you hear each account of Jesus’ love in action, declare out loud together Ephesians 2:4, remembering that *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” Hebrews 13:8*
2. Why is God *“good to all and His tender mercies over all His works”*? *Psalm 145:9*

Eph. 2:4 But, God who is rich in mercy, because of His great love in which He loved us.

B. What does Jesus' mercy look like in this area of healing?

1. A Syrophenician woman's cries out on behalf of her demon possessed daughter. (Matt. 15:21-28)

Matthew 15:22 Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David.

a. The daughter is instantly delivered.

Mt. 15:28 And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

2. Blind Bartimaeus cries out:

Mark 10:47 he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me."

a. When Jesus heard him immediately he received his sight.

Mark 10:52 Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.

C. What does Jesus' compassion look like?

1. Two blind men healed (Matthew 20:29-34)

Matthew 20:34 So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight.

2. Leper cleansed/healed (Mark 1: 41-45)

Mark 1:41-42 Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed.

3. Child raised from the dead (Luke 7:11-17)

4. The multitude healed. Matthew 14:13-14

Matthew 14:14 And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.

5. Testimony of a modern day story of God's compassion

D. Take communion, recalling all that Jesus has done for you through the work of the cross.

Lamentations 3:21-23 This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. 24 The Lord is my portion says my soul; therefore, I hope in Him.