

COMPASSION

Matthew 9:36

Colossians 3:12-14

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- How would you define compassion?
- Who in your life would you describe as compassionate? Why?

In his letter to the Colossian church, the Apostle Paul encouraged these early Christians to clothe themselves with compassion. We all know that being compassionate does not always come naturally to our human nature. However, as we study compassion in the Bible we will discover that our ability to practice compassion does not depend on ourselves. The source of our compassion is God's own compassionate character. As we unpack God's compassion and the witness of Christ's compassion in the gospels, we will learn what it means to live out the virtue of compassion in our daily lives. Join us as we explore biblical compassion and how it relates to empathy, comfort, presence, and forgiveness.

Listen: [Compassion](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- In segment 1, host Scott Hoezee explains compassion this way: "Compassion is to suffer with—to bear with somebody; and not just to suffer with them, but the compassion also leads us to work to alleviate the suffering of the other person." How does Scott's explanation compare to the definition you gave in the awareness section above? Do you tend to find it more natural to "suffer with" or to "alleviate the suffering" when offering compassion? Why do you think that is? Why are both important?
- How has God shown you compassion?
- What are some of the challenges or obstacles that make it more difficult for you to be compassionate?
- Throughout the episode Scott and host Darrell Delaney discuss the important connections between compassion and 1) comfort, 2) the ministry of presence, and 3) forgiveness. Why are these connections important? How does compassion help you practice comfort, the ministry of presence, and forgiveness? How do comfort, the ministry of presence, and forgiveness help you nurture and practice compassion?

Related Passages

- **Matthew 14:14**

- **Matthew 125:32**
- **John 11:33-38**
- **Hosea 11:7-9**
- **James 2:15-16**
- **Luke 15:11-32**

Conclusion

Think about the spaces you inhabit and the people you interact with daily. How can you offer comfort and show compassion to the people you encounter? What are some ways you can nurture compassion in your character? Close your time by sharing your reflections with God in prayer and by giving thanks for the compassion he has shown you.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/compassion>

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