

Twenty-One Day Fast: Day Thirteen – August 20

Moved by Compassion by Norman Kaneklides

Every time Jesus felt compassion for someone or for a mass of people, there was such a movement of compassion from within Him that it surged out of Him to meet the needs of people. The original word used for compassion is expressive of the deepest emotion; a yearning of the innermost nature with pity.

C.H. Spurgeon imagined that when Jesus looked upon certain sights, “those who watched him closely perceived that his internal agitation was very great, his emotions were very deep, and then his face betrayed it, his eyes gushed like fountains with tears, and you saw that his big heart was ready to burst with pity for the sorrow upon which his eyes were gazing. He was moved with compassion. His whole nature was agitated with commiseration (*sorrow, pity, and sympathy*) for the sufferers before him.”

Jesus, being moved by compassion provided food, raised the dead, delivered the demon-possessed, and healed the sick. His compassion also prompted teaching for those who were like sheep without a shepherd. Following are some examples:

Healed Two Blind Men:

Matt. 20:34 - Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

Healed a Leper:

Mark 1:41 - Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!"

Brought a Dead Man Back to Life:

Luke 17:13-15 - When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry." Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

Fed Over 4,000 People:

Matthew 15:32-35 - Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way." His disciples answered, "Where could we get enough bread in this remote place to feed such a crowd?" "How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked. "Seven," they replied, "and a few small fish." He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had given thanks, he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people. They all ate and were satisfied.

PRAYER POINT: Oh Lord, give me your heart of compassion for those that cross my path. Help me to see people through your eyes, love them with your love, and feel the same compassion you have for them. May I be moved to touch their lives in the power of your Holy Spirit.