




The Compassion of Jesus


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“Soon afterward Jesus went with his disciples to the village of Nain, and a large crowd followed Him. A funeral procession was coming out as He approached the village gate. The young man who had died was a widow’s only son, and a large crowd from the village was with her. When the Lord saw her, *His heart overflowed with compassion.* “Don’t cry!” He said. Then He walked over to the coffin and touched it, and the bearers stopped. “Young man,” He said, “I tell you, get up.” Then the dead boy sat up and began to talk! And Jesus gave him back to his mother.”

(Luke 7:11-15)



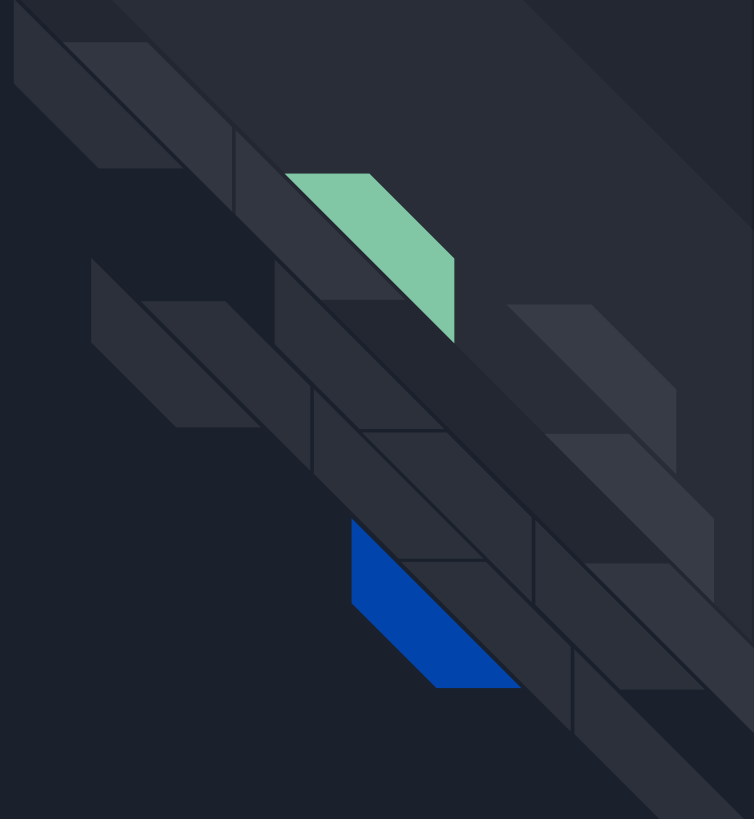
“A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. ‘If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean,’ he said.


Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. ‘I am willing,’ He said. ‘Be healed!’ Instantly the leprosy disappeared, and the man was healed.”

(Mark 1:40-42)

**“Moved with
compassion”**

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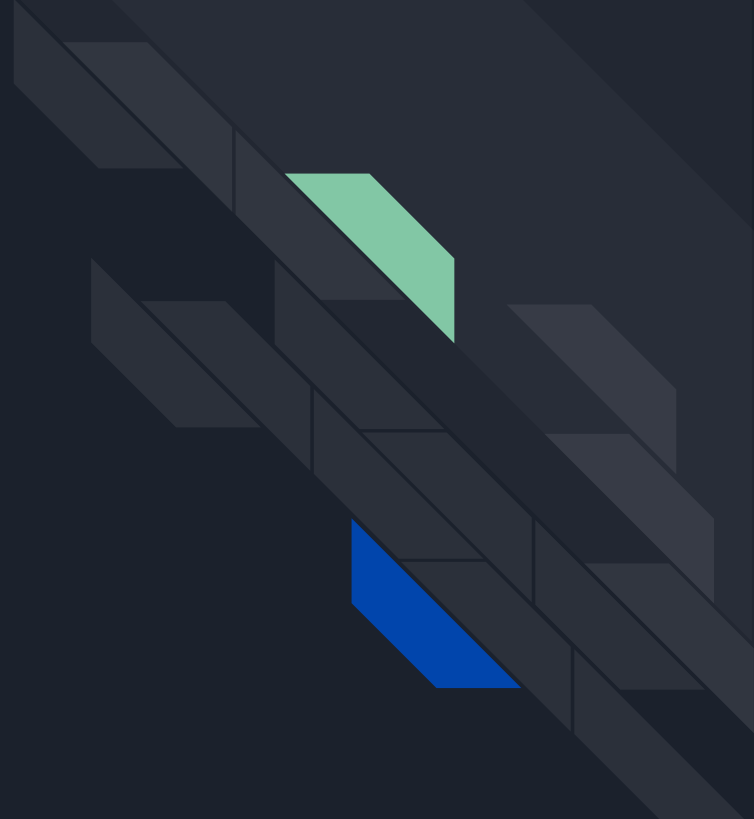
What is Compassion? How is It Different than Empathy?


Official Definition of Compassion: “ the sympathetic consciousness of others’ distress together with a desire to alleviate it.”

Comes from Latin word, which literally means “to suffer with”

Compassion = empathy + action

What has Jesus taught
me about compassion?





1. To show compassion, I must first be PRESENT

“The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

- Implications of Jesus’ incarnation-- His exposure to pain and brokenness
- Jesus doesn’t turn away from the widow and the leper in their pain, even though He was socially told to do so



“To live with compassion means to enter others’ dark moments. It is to walk into places of pain, not to flinch or look away when another agonizes. It means to stay where people suffer.”

(Henri Nouwen, *Turn My Mourning into Dancing*)

When have I
experienced
compassion in the form
of presence?





2. Compassion must include feeling the depths of others' suffering

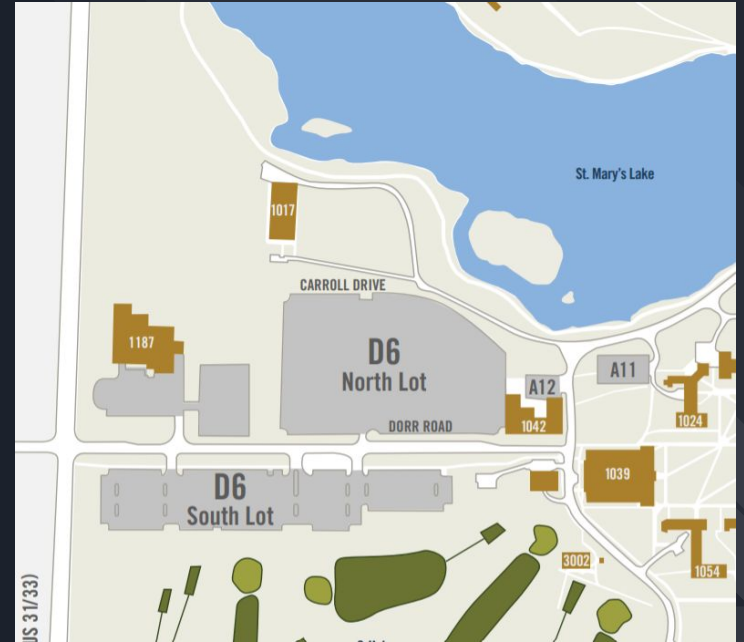
“This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for He faced all of the same testings we do, yet He did not sin.” (Hebrews 4:15)

- Jesus felt deep compassion for the situations of the leper and the woman within the Jewish social climate and for their suffering



"Compassion is sometimes the fatal capacity for feeling what it is like to live inside somebody else's skin. It is the knowledge that there can never really be any peace and joy for me until there is peace and joy finally for you too."
(Frederick Buechner)

“Jesus understands
deeply and personally
what I am feeling right
now”



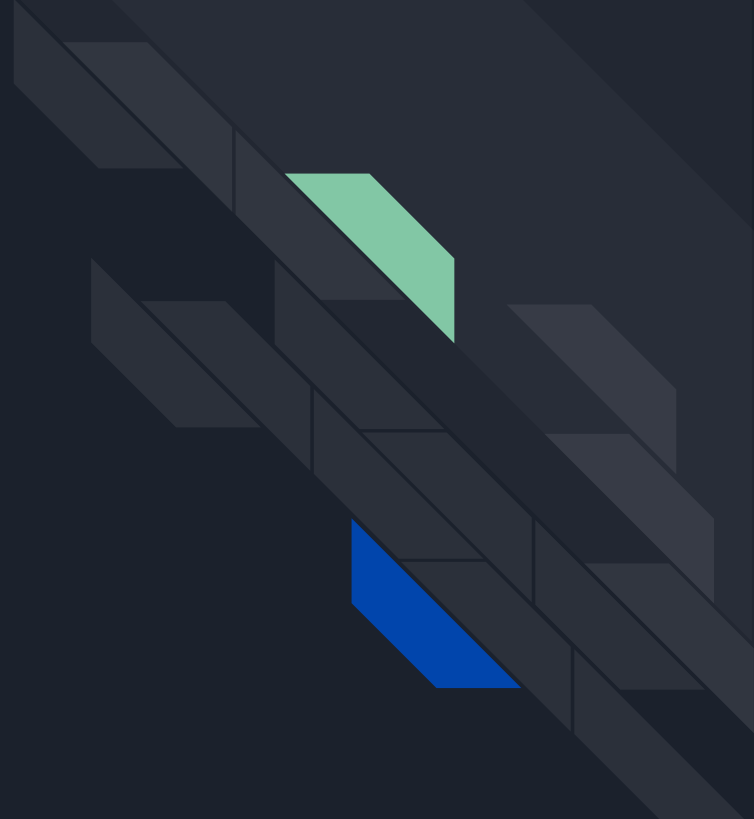


3. Compassion compels me to take action

“Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.” (1 John 3:18)

- Jesus reaches out to touch and heal people because of His compassion for them
- Jesus’ actions of touching/healing these people were considered scandalous for a devout Jew

We are called to be
compassionate like
Jesus in our broken
world!





Reflection Questions

1. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus intimately understands whatever emotions you have? Do you tend to push away your emotions or not bring them to God?
2. What would it look like for you to have compassion for your friends and for the poor and marginalized in our society right now?