



Dear Precious Friend,

*August, 2015*

## **Who Is My Neighbor?**

Compassion is the component that defines and drives divine love. Without it, "love" is self-seeking and self-pleasing. As His mystical body, we are called to pursue that same compassionate love that flowed freely from Yeshua towards God and man.

Yeshua knew that this was the missing component in the religious system of His day. He knew that without compassion, His law would be misunderstood, falsified, and misapplied. Therefore when a lawyer asks Him how to inherit eternal life, Jesus responds by directing him to the law. Since love is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets, this is the crux of the issue. Therefore He asks the lawyer HOW he reads the law. Jesus asks us the same question today:

What is written in the law? How do you read it? And he (*the lawyer*) answering said, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself. *Luke 10:26-27*

The lawyer answers correctly, but in trying to justify himself, he exposes the fact that his understanding of the law of love has come by way of his intellect and not through genuine heart revelation that compels to compassionate action.

But he, willing to justify himself, said to Jesus, and who is my neighbor? *Luke 10:29*

Jesus shares the parable of the Good Samaritan to awaken in the lawyer his compassionate heart.

He describes a man who was robbed, beaten and left for dead. A certain priest sees him, but passes by on the other side. Likewise, a Levite sees the wounded man and also passes by. However, when a certain Samaritan SEES the man, he is moved with compassion and begins to minister healing to him. Here we begin to see a clear picture of what compassion truly is.

Both religious leaders saw the wounded man, but they shut up their bowels of compassion. However, the Samaritan puts himself in the man's shoes and loves him as himself. He treats the man as he himself desires to be treated, pouring into his wounds his OWN oil and wine, setting him on his OWN beast, and caring for him with his OWN money. The Samaritan is surely a picture of Yeshua whose compassion compelled Him to take our sin and sickness upon His OWN body.....but the wounded dying man is also Yeshua on the cross and this parable is meant to awaken in us a more tender love for the Lord Himself.

Does the Lord need our compassion?

And the King shall answer and say to them, Verily I say to you, Inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it to me. *Mathew 25:40*

In this verse, the Lord declares that when we show compassion to all who are made in the image of God (and surely to His own people in the flesh), we are doing it to God Himself. And yet it's much more than that, for David cries out in Psalm 18:1, I will love You, O LORD, my strength. . ויאמר ארהמך יהוה חזקי: . In Hebrew, David is crying out "I will have mercy on You, O Lord my strength" or "I will show tender compassionate love towards You." The love that God desires from us is much more than mere mechanical obeisance, which can never satisfy His heart. Loving God with compassion is loving God as yourself.

Jesus ends the parable with a question: Which now of these three, do you think was neighbor to him that fell among the thieves? *Luke 10:36*

This time, the lawyer answers by heart revelation: "He that showed mercy on him." Jesus says, go and DO the same... Like David, let us love our God with tender compassion and our neighbor as our self. For this is the fulfillment of the law.

### **Compassion in Action:**

My neighbors have been hearing us singing and praying for well over a year. Several of them have let me know that they enjoy the "sound coming from my apartment". It has opened conversations about the Lord. I have been sharing with one of them for months. Recently another neighbor let me know that he enjoys hearing us sing. I shared Yeshua with him. His eyes shot open when I told him that our atonement, Yeshua, is alive from the dead! I told him that Jesus is Israel's only true hope. He desires to hear more.

Several weeks ago I ran into an elderly man while waiting for a ride to our Shabbat service. He was suffering from a lung ailment and after we sat and talked on a bench, I asked if I could pray for him in Yeshua's name. As I finished praying, my ride came. Last week, I was surprised to run into him again. He sat next to me on the same bench and told me that he feels better in his lungs since we prayed. So I prayed for him again. He is open. Please pray for these Israelis who are open to hear and to receive prayer in Yeshua's name.

I so appreciate your faithful, loving prayers and support. May His love abound in you even more till the Day of Christ Jesus.

In His Tender Love,

*Greta*