

"Tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"-1King 22:16

HE HAD COMPASSION"

September 11, 2001, is a date that will forever be inscribed in the minds of many Americans. This was a day of terror and bloodshed, but it can also be remembered as a day of compassion, and unity. People around the world were in shock and disbelief as many souls lost their lives on that horrifying day. Love and compassion were expressed for our fellow Americans; compassion was shown towards the five year old who lost her mother, the father who lost his only son, who was trapped inside of the World Trade Center. Compassion was shown for the grandparents who were visiting the Twin Towers not knowing that just in a few seconds their lives were going to be taken. Compassion was shown for the many men and women who fought so bravely to save lives only to succumb to falling debris.

In the book of Mark we read: ***"And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things"*** (Mark 6:34). Just before feeding a group of about five thousand with five loaves and two fish, Jesus noticed a crowd, and we are told that He was "moved with compassion." One of the amazing things that we learn about our Lord is that we have a High Priest, who does "sympathize with our weaknesses," and knows all things. He is a High Priest, who understands our pain and heartache, and can look into the hearts and minds of men and know their eternal condition. But why was Christ so compassionate towards this group of people?

I believe the answer is revealed in the text. Mark states that when Christ looked upon the multitude that He "was moved with compassion," because the people were like sheep without a shepherd!

Sheep without a shepherd are in total darkness and are lost without a way. Sheep are not known for their wisdom. Left to themselves, they have problems.

- They will overgraze, creating a food shortage.
- They are highly vulnerable to attacks from predators.
- They wander off from the herd and get lost.

The same can be said about man. If left to his own way, we are doomed, and lost without a way.

An unknown author made this statement. *"I woke up in the middle of the woods, and it was dark, and there was no clear way before me."* This is true about man who is in darkness and sin. Sin has darkened the way which leads to the marvelous light of forgiveness and hope. It is only with the help of the great Shepherd, Jesus Christ, that man can find his way. But we must be willing to heed the Shepherd's voice and follow Him (See John 10:1-18).

Like compassion was shown on 9/11, we must be compassionate about the souls of men. Where is the compassion for the souls of men today? Are there sheep in your community that are lost, and without the direction of the Shepherd? What are we doing to help them find their way?

It is Jesus who said:

- ***"I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep."***
- ***"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture." "***
- ***"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."***
- ***"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father — and I lay down my life for the sheep." "...there shall be one flock and one shepherd"*** (John 10:7,9,11,14,15-16).

HAVE YOU STUDIED YOUR BIBLE TODAY?

Jesus was moved with compassion for the souls of the lost, but what about you and me ? - Fred Singleton

Please Understand My Absence: A Word of Explanation

I guess that a word of explanation is due the church. This concerns the problem created last Sunday morning when I did not show up for services. I had actually anticipated being there to preach like I regularly do, but several things came up during the week that caused me to feel justified in missing. I did not expect the big uproar it caused among so many of the members. I know, though, that once you hear all of the circumstances you will fully understand.

I learned that I could get a nice exemption on my income taxes by taking a couple of classes at the university. I never intended for these to interfere with my preaching, but all of a sudden I realized that we had this big exam coming up. I really had to cram for that test. Of course, you realize how important it is to save money and I knew that none of you would want me to ignore my studies at school in order to work on my church work. And then in the middle of the week the air conditioner broke on my car. Now there again, I knew that you would not want me driving around in a hot car so I decided to spend the whole day working on the air conditioner. I was so tired when that job was finished that I didn't feel like working on my sermons, so I went to a double-feature at the movie theater.

I had really intended on spending all day Friday working in my office, but we got this phone call that my sister-in-law's cousin's wife had a baby. Well, everybody gets all excited when a baby is born and we don't expect to do much of the Lord's work during all that excitement. And then we get down to Saturday. I just knew that I could get a lot of work done then. But Saturday afternoon a whole carload of my kinfolks pulled into the driveway. It had been almost a month since we had seen them, so we hurriedly packed a picnic supper and headed for the lake. We wanted to try out our new boat and it was after dark getting back. I remembered then that I didn't have my sermon finished, and on top of all this, the relatives decided to spend the night. I tried to phone a couple of the members, but the line was busy. It wasn't until today that I learned that you hadn't been able to get anybody

to fill in for me. I'm really sorry that you got so upset, but I can't make a hard promise that it won't happen again because this week I have to wax my car, weed my garden, and, oh yes, my wife's kinfolks said they might come up this week. I'm sure you understand a lot better now that you know the facts.

I didn't understand, though, why one guy said; He's acting like the members!" Unknown Author

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“EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES”



1. What was another name that Peter was called? _____¹
2. What apostle was blinded by light on the road to Damascus? _____²
3. Who was thrown into a den of lions? _____³

Fill In The Blanks From Memory

1. “Therefore, _____, we are _____ — not to the flesh, to live according to the _____. For if you live according to the flesh you will _____; but if by the _____ you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
2. “But the _____ who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have _____ commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.”
3. “You see then that a _____ is _____ by works, and _____ by faith _____.”

(Scriptures based on the NKJV)

Private Bible studies available anytime!

¹ Matthew 4:18

² Acts 9:3-9

³ Daniel 6:16

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