



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 20 "His Compassion" By Pastor Bill Alderson

Luke 4:38-41 ESV

Jesus Heals Many

³⁸ And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf.

³⁹ And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

⁴⁰ Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹ And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

Two weeks ago, Pastor Jody kicked off this three-part series seeking to address a big question: "Are you ready to take a trip with Jesus to discover Salvation, Life & Freedom; to see what His Gospel can do?"

Luke 4:42-44 ESV

⁴² And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them,

⁴³ but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God **to the other towns as well**; for I was sent for this purpose." ⁴⁴ And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

As a reminder, this trilogy takes place for Jesus around the familiar, the churches/synagogues near His home town of Nazareth. These stories share Jesus' encounter with people and places He was familiar with. So by this week's sermon we will have associated ourselves with one of the three different groups of people that we encounter in these verses;



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 20 "His Compassion" By Pastor Bill Alderson

- Those that thought they knew Him,
- Those that are hostile to Him, and
- Those that wanted Him for what He can do.

And even if you say "But I am all three of these," guess what – you still get the invitation to travel with Him and see Jesus for yourself.

A quick recap:

Week 1 – His Rejection

The dangers of thinking you know Jesus well (16-30).

Week 2 – His Authority

We can learn from the enemy on how we should fear Him (31-37).

And this week, Week 3 – His Compassion

The demonstration of how He cares for people (38-41).

The literal meaning of compassion, according to Dictionary.com, is a *"feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering."*¹

By that definition, when you think of "Compassion," certain people or certain events in your life may come to mind. When you think of Compassionate people, perhaps your parents, or a beloved family member come to mind.

And likewise, when you think of uncaring people, perhaps high school or the elementary playground – or maybe it's the same beloved family member?

¹ Dictionary.com – Definition of Compassion: <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/compassion>



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 20 "His Compassion" By Pastor Bill Alderson

I've been blessed in my lifetime to be surrounded by loving, compassionate people, so when I think of compassion, many examples come to mind of times where I experienced great, loving compassion, and times I experienced a shocking lack thereof.

However, when I sat down to work on this sermon, and I tried to come up with examples of both sides, it was very easy to pinpoint times when someone had been uncaring towards me.

An easy example that comes to mind happened when I was around 10 years old.

My family had this amazing set of monkey-bars in our front yard that was far older than I. Now, this was back in the day when playground equipment was not what you would call "safe," and was more akin to a military obstacle course than today's safety-conscious playground sets.

I remember that I was climbing on these monkey bars with friends one day – which were shaped like a large upside-down "U" – and I stood at the top of the little ladder, preparing to reach up to climb across, when suddenly I slipped. And when I slipped, one foot went this way, and one foot went that way, and the bar came right up the middle.

Let me tell you, at 10 years old, I had never experienced anything like this sort of pain. It hurt. It hurt really bad. When I regained my senses, I stagger-ran into the house to find my that my Mom had witnessed the horrific event – her response? ***"Well, you shouldn't have been standing on the top like that!"***

But now when I tried to ***think through examples of compassion***, what really came to mind **were people** rather than moments – people in my life who exhibited and modeled compassion – and yes, my Mom is in the group, as is my Dad, my brothers and sister, my aunts and uncles, Teachers, bosses, co-workers.

This really got me thinking – do I take loving compassion for granted?



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 20 "His Compassion" By Pastor Bill Alderson

If I find it so easy to think of those times when I felt hurt by someone's lack of caring, but I struggle to think times when someone truly exhibited *great and sacrificial* levels of compassion in my life, have I **lessened** the true impact that these people have had on my life?

The answer is **yes** – yes I have – and I **must** confess and repent of this to you here today. You know, they say that the first person God speaks to through a sermon is the Pastor, and I always find that to be the case.

You see, biblical Compassion is a form of love that rises within us when we encounter those who suffer, or struggle, or are vulnerable.

Since acts of compassion flow from compassionate people, it's not surprising to learn that compassion is therefore at the core of God's very being, as we see God himself proclaim to Moses in Exodus 34:6

Exodus 34:6-7

⁶The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty...

Echoes of this declaration are found throughout Scripture. God's compassion was essential for the maintenance of the covenant and his people praised him for it continually, as we see in Psalm 103:



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 20 "His Compassion" By Pastor Bill Alderson

Psalm 103:13

¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

¹³ As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

However, much like myself, the people of God have historically taken God's love and compassion for granted. We see this throughout the old testament. An example is in Psalm 78.

Previously in this Psalm... a fire was kindled against Jacob, and God's anger rose against Israel, because they did not believe in God and did not trust his saving power.

Psalm 78:38

Yet he, being compassionate, atoned for their iniquity and did not destroy them; he restrained his anger often and did not stir up all his wrath.

Thankfully, Jesus would come, and would model for us both gratitude for the Father and compassion for God's people, which brings us back to part 3 of our trilogy.

In these four verses from Luke 4:38-41, we see a concise snapshot of the Jesus' compassion played out in three ways. First:



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 20 "His Compassion" By Pastor Bill Alderson

1. Compassion of Jesus displayed outside of the synagogue walls.

Luke 4:38-39

³⁸ And he arose and **left the synagogue and entered Simon's house**. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. ³⁹ And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

Now first, we have to understand that of all bodily diseases at this time in the story, none are more common or fatal to adults than fevers; and there was no running down to CVS for a bottle of Advil, or taking a trip to the emergency clinic for antibiotics.

Jesus shows a tender concern for His people when they are in distress: Here we see that he stood over Simon's mother-in-law, as one concerned for her, and showing her care.

Jesus had – and still has – divine sovereignty over bodily diseases: Here we see that He "rebuked the fever," and with a just those words He commanded the Fever to be gone – "and it left her." This proves Jesus' cures to be miraculous, that they were done in an instant.

So then what happened?

"immediately she rose and began to serve them."

Though his Love and Compassion, Jesus gave this woman a new life, in this case in the recovery from physical illness. And when He does this, He expects this "new life" to blossom, spent more than ever in his service, to his glory.

What we see modeled here is that, if Jesus rebukes the "Fever" in our life – whatever form that might be – and we rise from a "bed of sickness," we must set ourselves to serving Jesus who saved us.



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 20 "His Compassion" By Pastor Bill Alderson

AND, those of us who serve Jesus must also be ready to serve all that are His for His sake:

When the mother-in-law served, she served not only Jesus who had saved her, but those who had sought him for her.

So, in this we come to understand that we must seek to be grateful to those that have prayed for us, *for those who have shown us Compassion.*

John 13:35

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another"

2. Compassion of Jesus displayed to both the afflicted and the care-giver.

Luke 4:40

⁴⁰ Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases **brought them to him**, and he laid his hands **on every one of them** and healed them.

Now, if you'll recall, we are still in the evening of the sabbath day which Jesus had spent in the synagogue. Because Jesus performed miracles of healing on the Sabbath, some Pharisees accused Him of breaking the Sabbath.

And we see here that He cured all who were sick – poor as well as rich – from a diverse set of illnesses. He had a remedy for every malady.



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 20 "His Compassion" By Pastor Bill Alderson

However, When Jesus healed on the Sabbath, He was not breaking the Sabbath, but fulfilling it, because one is not at rest when afflicted, oppressed and bound by disease or infirmity.

Remember, God is compassionate, and "hears the cry of the afflicted. (Job 34:28-29). As many scriptures attest, God delights in redeeming and restoring the afflicted, and giving them the rest exemplified by His Sabbath.

Bound by their false traditions, the Pharisees did try to make trouble for Jesus, condemning Him for giving those whom He healed rest from their afflictions. However, we are given clarity on this issue in Romans 13:

8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

So, we see here very clearly, friends, that by showing compassion we are fulfilling the law.

3. Compassion of Jesus confirms who He is.

Luke 4:41

⁴¹ And demons also came out of many, crying, "**You are the Son of God!**" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because **they knew that he was the Christ.**

Here we see that confessions were extorted from the demoniacs.



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 20 "His Compassion" By Pastor Bill Alderson

They said, "**You are the Son of God!**" but they said it crying with great rage and indignation.

We see that Jesus rebukes them, and did not allow them to speak that they knew him to be the Christ. Why? Because His hour was not yet come. We see this in John 7:

John 7:30-52

30 So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. 31 Yet many of the people believed in him. They said, "When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?"

So the demons knew at this time that Jesus was the Christ, (the Messiah). However, it was not till after the Crucifixion that 'Christ' became a proper name, and not a title. Jesus consistently refused testimony from devils, for the same reason that they were eager to give it – because His enemies intended this as an allegation, NOT a praise. So in this act, Jesus reminds us that Satan, a perpetual enemy of the truth, should not be listened to, even when he appears to speak the truth.

And the truth here is this:

Through His Love and Compassion, the demons saw clearly the divinity of Jesus and it terrified them.

The Love of Jesus confronts and triumphs over Darkness – every time.



The Gospel According to Luke
Wk. 20 "His Compassion"
By Pastor Bill Alderson

And most importantly, Jesus shows Compassion from a place of strength, not weakness.

1 Peter 2:20-24

²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

So to wrap up here today, what are we to take away from this trilogy?

Week 1 – His Rejection

Through witnessing and experiencing Jesus' Rejection in his home to town, you may actually be receiving God's Affirmation. And to beware the dangers of thinking you know Jesus well (16-30).

Week 2– His Authority

We can learn from the enemy on how we should fear Him (31-37).

Week 3 – His Compassion

The demonstration of how He cares for people (38-41).



**The Gospel According to Luke
Wk. 20 "His Compassion"
By Pastor Bill Alderson**

As we had into 2019, Jody and I want you to know that Jesus is inviting you today to go with Him into this year, and to “these other towns” mentioned in in v.43 – to preach the good news.

And though at times you will experience rejection, as he did, rest assured that it is under His authority that we seek the lost, and through His Compassion that we can freely preach Faith, Hope, and Love to those around us.

PRAYER

COMMUNION

BLESSING

- **Go in the name of the Father who has shown you steadfast love**
- **Go in the name of the Son who brings you Compassion and Hope**
- **Go in the Power of the HS which emboldens you to love your neighbor.**