

The Gift of Compassion

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Cooper Mt Ward – Youth Fireside

What does "compassion" mean?

- Webster: sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it
- To "show compassion" then is to not only have understanding and sympathy toward someone's distress but to do something to alleviate, change or ease that distress

Compassion toward to those who have wronged us

- Joseph in Egypt
 - Genesis 45:5-7
 - The world would teach that such compassion is weakness. Not true. It takes greater strength to show compassion than it does anger or violence or cruelty.
 - Luke 22:50-51 (Christ healed servant's ear after it was smote off)
 - Luke 23:34 (Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do)

Compassion toward to those whom have done wrong

- Woman brought in Adultery
 - John 8:10-11
 - Don't judge
 - Condemn: to declare to be reprehensible, wrong, or evil usually after weighing evidence and without reservation (Webster's)

Compassion toward to those who may be "social outcasts"

- Leper
 - Mark 1:40-42
 - Who are the "lepers" (social outcasts) in our lives?
 - Mentally ill
 - Handicapped
 - Poor
 - Alternate lifestyles

Compassion toward to those of a perceived different sociality

- Good Samaritan
 - Luke 10:30-37
 - Are there those who we might consider to be of a different sociality?
 - Poorer
 - Different nationality
 - non-lds

Compassion toward to those who are in need

- Widow of Nain
 - Luke 7:11-15
 - Why did Savior have compassion? She had no one to take care of her
 - Who around us is in need?
 - Widows
 - Homeless
 - Single Mother Families

Compassion toward those who sorrow

- Mary, Mother of Jesus
 - John 19:26-27
 - Those who lose loved ones (father, mother, brother, sister)
- Thomas S Monson

"Let us remember that after the funeral flowers fade, the well wishes of friends become memories, and the prayers offered and words spoken dim in the corridors of the mind. Those who grieve frequently find themselves alone. Missed is the laughter of children, the commotion of teenagers, and the tender, loving concern of a departed companion. The clock ticks more loudly, time passes more slowly, and four walls can indeed a prison make. " (email to Mike Baird, 3/13/07)
- Not only death but can be to illness too
 - Ty & Dorothy Perkins

Compassion toward those that are lonely

- Richard L Evans (as quoted by Thomas S Monson)

"We who are younger should never become so blindly absorbed in our own pursuits as to forget that there are still with us those who will live in loneliness unless we let them share our lives as once they let us share theirs. ...

"We cannot bring them back the morning hours of youth. But we can help them live in the warm glow of a sunset made more beautiful by our thoughtfulness, by our provision, and by our active and unfeigned love. Life in its fullness is a loving ministry of service from generation to generation. God grant that those who belong to us may never be left in loneliness. " ("The Fatherless and the Widows: Beloved of God," Ensign, Aug 2003, 2–7)

Compassion will be returned to you

Alma 41:14:15

Therefore, my son, see that you are merciful unto your brethren; deal justly, judge righteously, and do good continually; and if ye do all these things then shall ye receive your reward; yea, ye shall have mercy restored unto you again; ye shall have justice restored unto you again; ye shall have a righteous judgment restored unto you again; and ye shall have good rewarded unto you again.

15 For that which ye do send out shall return unto you again, and be restored