

COMPASSION

A REFLECTION ON THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

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Compassion is something that comes from deep inside of us , to be moved with a situation mostly negative , noticing and having a positive feeling for someone in a needy situation, to be moved and do something about the situation. The word compassion is derived from the Latin words 'pati and cum' ,meaning to suffer with , to be in the shoes of the person and share with them what they are going through. Whenever Jesus saw some sick , disabled , blind and all sorts of people suffering he was moved with compassion for instance , he saw the hungry multitude and he was moved and provided them with food the little that was available, he multiplied 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish,and fed a multitude. Mark 6;34-44. He did not leave the situation the same , he prayed with them and met their needs . Many people do not understand what it really means to be compassionate. Just anyone can feel sorry or bad for someone but it takes compassion to change the situation for the better. Not all people can be compassionate .

The author clearly states that compassion is not being basically good and understanding. It's not that because conflicts and all sorts of problems arise continuously then that concludes that compassion is not just a feeling but it's more to taking action and as a Social Worker that is what is expected of us to be compassionate .To change the world for the better and to see beyond the life of the broken , vulnerable and most disadvantaged to see light at the end of the tunnel.

Peregrine Worsthorne did not agree about having compassion because that would bring a bad identity to a world , Henry Nouwen. Page 4-5 ,” No healthy society should allow itself to see the world through the eyes of the unfortunate , since the unfortunate have no great interest in perceiving”, in other words he meant they are valueless, at some point because no one wants to identify with the suffering. This is so true in the world we live in today ,the poor and most disadvantaged community has been neglected , because no one wants to be identified with them .It takes a call which is stated as vocation in the text and a humble heart and compassion to serve the needy. We as Christian Social Workers it's our fundamental role, but we can not do this alone by ourselves we need God to help us , to be with us ‘Immanuel , God- with-us’ .His presence changes everything .The presence is mostly needed to the needy person, to be with them in their vulnerability or weaknesses.Compassionate also means “God with us “ .

We live in a world where mostly people are selfless and selfish they think of themselves only, and the more they get , the more they want, not for others to benefit but for themselves .Looking at Jesus even though he is the son of God , he came to earth and pull down his title as son of the most High God, being with people in their suffering , he was with them and experienced what they did experience too he never enjoyed his position as the son of the most high God. Jesus was so humble and did not want anything for himself but he became a servant yet he was son of the King of Kings he became human in the most rejected and dejected way (Nouwen,at.al page.24)So the problem with people is what Peregrine Worsthorne outlined that, “no one wants to be perceived in the eyes of the unfortunate,” or the needy, it’s an embarrassment of some kind .Most people does have anything to do with the poor.

As a Social Worker one has to be like Jesus , have the same spirit of being in others shoes no matter how it can be painful .God always give us the strength to pull through ,we will never be asked to suffer more than we can bear and never tested beyond our strength or ability (page 42). We have to be obedient as he Jesus Christ became obedient to God the Father, listening to the voice of his Father who sent him and doing what he was sent to do at its utmost pain and sorrow, means God is with us , he is always with us in suffering and pain and promises never to leave us. I was so much skeptical of some of the things I hear Social Workers go through but I have been empowered and strengthened by this text book Compassion. When we try to do things ourselves it looks so difficult and complicated but when we trust in God and know he sent us then our hope is being restored, there is so much assurance in God and we gain confidence and trust in him as we reach out to the unfortunate. God allowed the vulnerable in our lives , knowing he is with us and he enables us to also assist them in obedience .Nobody applies for these kind of lives but it can happen to anyone .God will always send his servants us Social Workers to hold each other's hand and help them to cross that bridge. Thinking of the orphan who has no one to look after , the old people who has no one to care for , the homeless who do not have a place called home and those with problems that no one would want to listen or pay attention to .They need someone with a compassionate heart not just feeling sorry for turn away. We as Social workers need to get in their experience and let them know we are there for them and with them.We are called for this purpose.

Matt 1;22-23 so when we call God we enter into a new relationship of intimacy. The simple gift that we have lost is to be present to each other. This gift is being lost and that's true by having each other's presence makes a difference.

It is very important as Christian Social workers to be there for others regardless of their religious background, ethnicity or race too , they need someone like us as long as we know we are not alone only God who never leaves us alone .He enters into every one of our situations and we experience it with God not alone. It's necessary because he can reach and be where it's unreachable with humans .Compassion comes with love , unconditional love , patience, endurance ,divine listening to a divine love, a loving response to a loving mission , and a free "yes" to a free command all centered on Christ .Jesus did the same as a perfect example for us as he listened to the Father its from listening that compassion is birthed and then into action.Once action is done then we have a better world , it feels great when we help people and their lives changes for the better .When their needs are met .I am so privileged to learn more from this text book as a Social Worker , it empowers me and centers me on Christ knowing that the work i am doing , I am doing this for the purpose of the Kingdom of God .To fulfill the call upon my life. I have to take a step of faith in situations that I see not to feel for them and go away but to do something to make them happy and change their lives.

Citation

Compassion; A Reflection on Christian Life

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