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Swk499: Integrative Seminar

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Reflection 1 - God With Us

1. The authors begin by stating that God is a compassionate God. “This means, first of all, that God has chosen to be God-with-us.” How do they explain what this means? The author explains that God is a God that lives in solidarity with us. He does not come to fix all our problems but prefers to enter into our problems.

2. The authors ask, “How do we know that God is our God and not a stranger, an outsider, a passerby?” Discuss. The authors mentioned that we know God is our God and not a stranger because God’s compassion became visible to us through Jesus Christ. Jesus was the embodiment of God here on earth, throughout the bible we see Jesus having compassion and joining people in their suffering. I can attest to this, in my moments of deep suffering where nobody close to me could have said anything to lift my spirit up. Jesus came to that place of anguish and joined me and helped me to get out of it.

3. The authors say that competition, not compassion, is the main motivation in life. Is this true? How so? Give examples. I agree with that statement because we all have tendencies of comparing ourselves to others, and want to naturally appear like we always have it all together. It is not easy to join people in their lowest moment without trying to give them a plan or ways for them to get out of there. If we do not check the conditions of our heart, even being served to others can be filled with pride and self motivation. Compassion on the other hand does not have to appear like they have the solution but much rather join them in their suffering.

