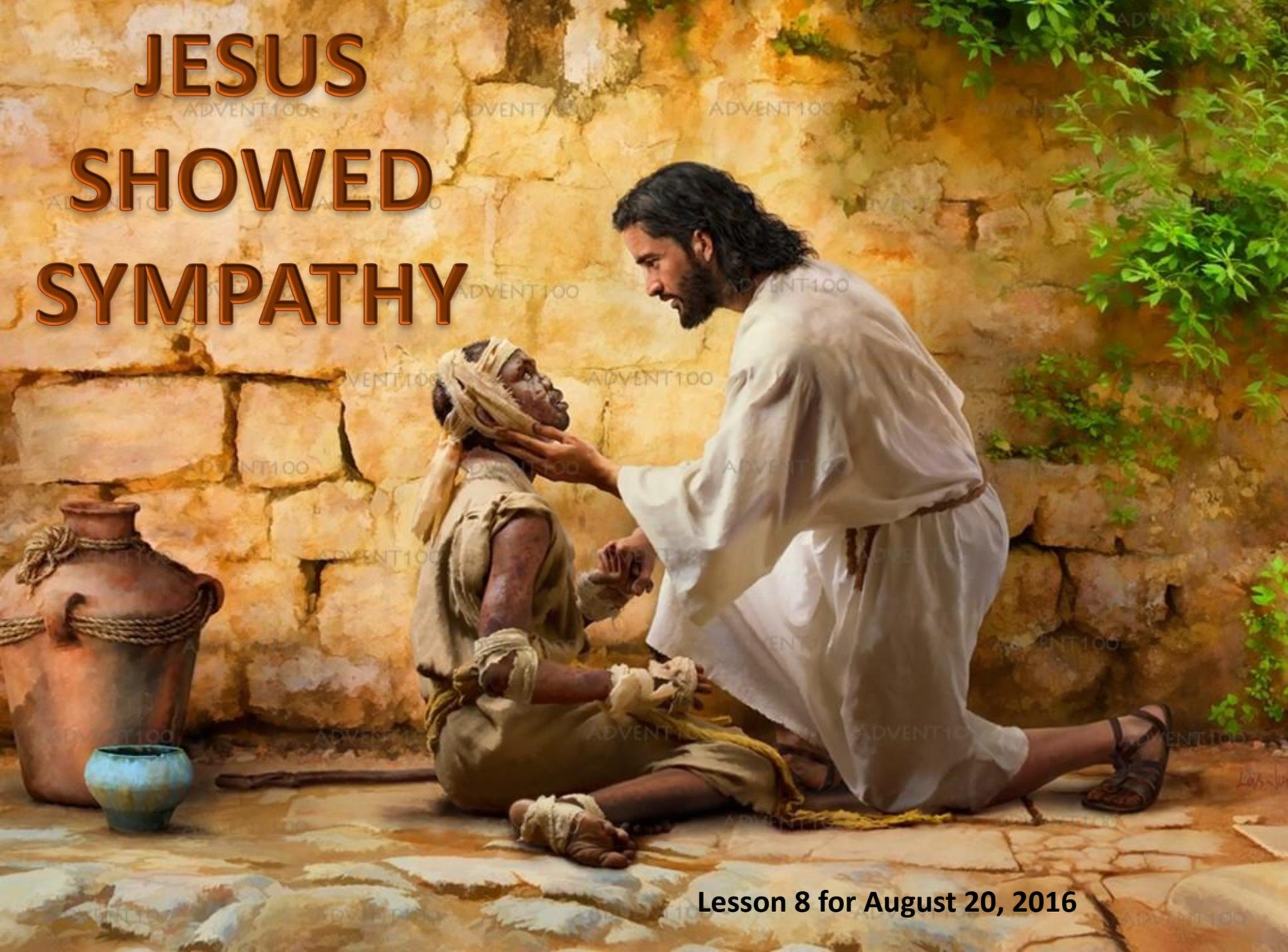


JESUS SHOWED SYMPATHY



Lesson 8 for August 20, 2016



Jesus showed sympathy for the people and cared about them. He already was a merciful God in the Old Testament.

When He was made flesh, He showed mercy to those around Him. He used His word and His example to teach them to be merciful too.

1. Divine mercy:

- ➔ **God hears our cry.**
- ➔ **The Savior has sympathy for us.**
- ➔ **The Savior cries with us and for us.**

2. Human mercy:

- ⌚ **Being moved to mercy.**
- ⌚ **Comforting those who suffer.**

GOD HEARS OUR CRY

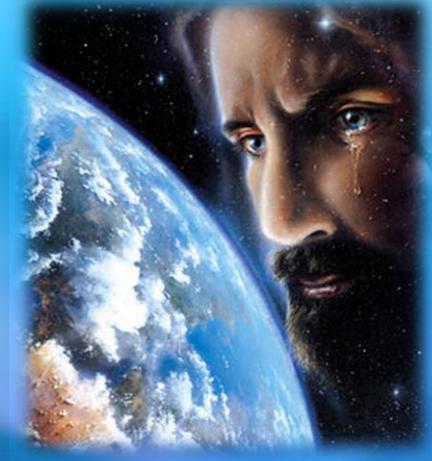
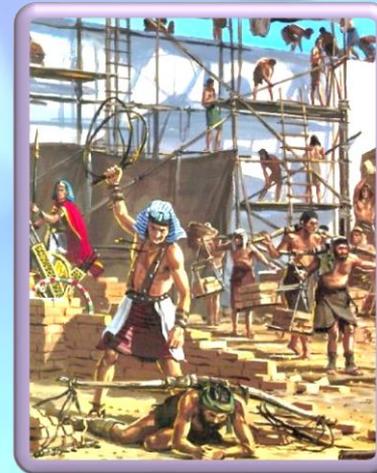
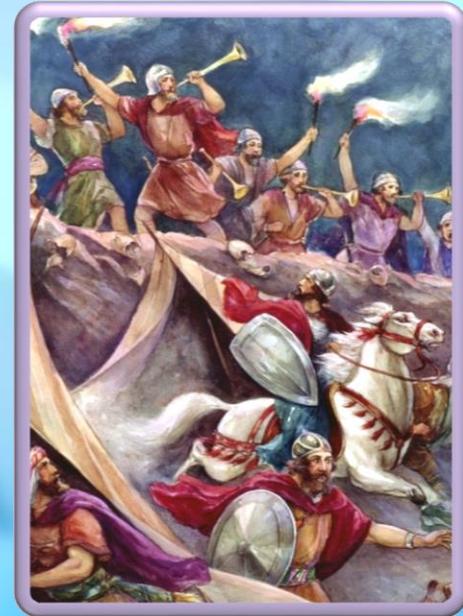
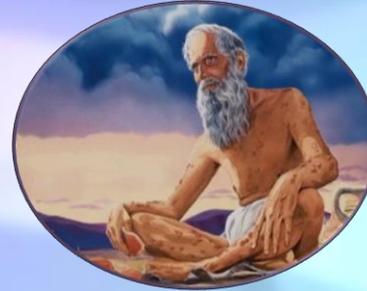
"This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles." (Psalm 34:6)

The Old Testament abounds in stories of people who complain about their problems and cry to God (sometimes those problems were caused by their own sins).

God didn't ignore them, but showed them mercy and sympathized with them because of their sufferings (see Exodus 2:23-25; Judges 2:16-18; 2 Kings 13:23; Isaiah 54:7-10).

God is not indifferent to His Creation; "the Lord is very compassionate and merciful." (James 5:11).

God still hears our cry today. We can trust His compassion, because "the Earth is full of the goodness of the Lord." (Psalm 33:5).



“Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him... His heart of love is touched by our sorrows and even by our utterances of them. Take to Him everything that perplexes the mind. Nothing is too great for Him to bear, for He holds up worlds, He rules over all the affairs of the universe. Nothing that in any way concerns our peace is too small for Him to notice. There is no chapter in our experience too dark for Him to read; there is no perplexity too difficult for Him to unravel. No calamity can befall the least of His children, no anxiety harass the soul, no joy cheer, no sincere prayer escape the lips, of which our heavenly Father is unobservant, or in which He takes no immediate interest. ‘He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.’ Psalm 147:3. The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon the earth to share His watchcare, not another soul for whom He gave His beloved Son.”

E.G.W. (Steps to Christ, cp. 11, pg. 100)

OUR COMPASSIONATE SAVIOR

"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd." (Matthew 9:36)

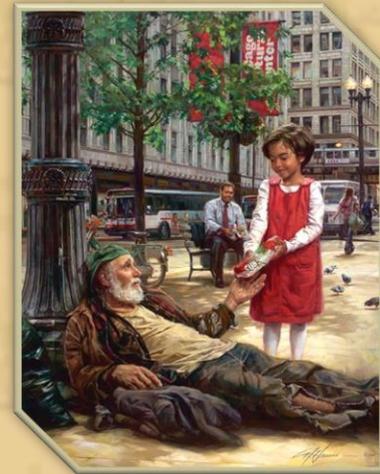


Having compassion for someone involves feeling sympathy, getting sad because of his suffering and understanding his feelings (sympathy, pity and empathy).

Having compassion is more than understanding the sufferings of others, but to wanting to ease them and to relieve them.

Jesus had compassion on the people. Therefore, He taught them, He healed them, He heard them and He prayed for them (Matthew 14:14; 9:35-38; Luke 7:11-16).

Jesus is our example. Our compassion must show two main characteristics; it must be sincere and active (it must give fruits of kindness).



JESUS CRIED

“Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”
(Romans 12:15)

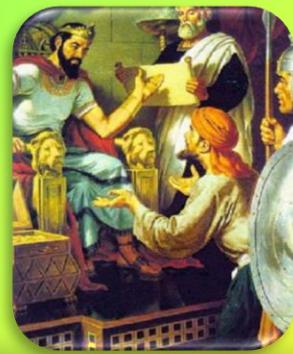


Why did Jesus cry before the tomb of Lazarus if He was going to resurrect him at once? (John 11:35).

“Though He was the Son of God, yet He had taken human nature upon Him, and He was moved by human sorrow. His tender, pitying heart is ever awakened to sympathy by suffering. He weeps with those that weep, and rejoices with those that rejoice... His heart was pierced with the pain of the human family of all ages and in all lands.” (Ellen G. White, “The Desire of Ages”, cp. 58, pp. 533-534).

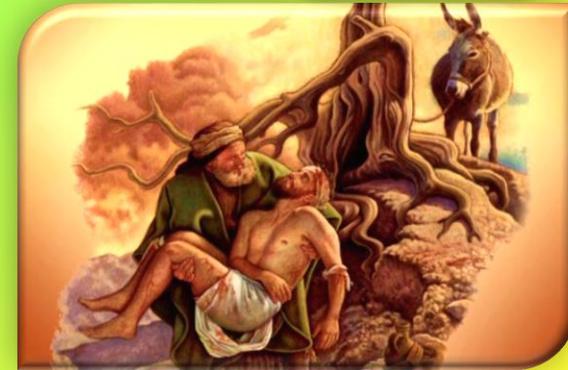
BEING MOVED TO MERCY

“Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.” (Matthew 18:27)



Judges 2:18 say that God was “moved to mercy” by the cry of His people. What does “moved to mercy” mean?

Luke 10:33 tells the story of a Samaritan man who was “moved to mercy”. He put himself in the wounded person’s shoes (he empathized with him). At the risk of suffering physical or material loss, he helped him.



Luke 15:20-32 tells the story of a father who was “moved to mercy”. He used his riches up and put his honor aside to restore his lost son, even if that caused an important familiar argument.

Being moved to mercy involves taking part in other’s suffering and helping them no matter the cost.



COMFORTING THOSE WHO SUFFER

“who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” (2 Corinthians 1:4)



As Christ comforts us in our suffering, we can comfort others. As we have learned from our own sorrows, we can more effectively minister to others in theirs.

The Church is a “city of refuge” because it’s filled with Christians that are willing to provide comfort. It’s a hospital that provides healing to those who suffer.

Comforting involves a sincere sympathy; crying with those we cry, being present in hard times, listening to others without criticizing, seeking professional counseling when needed, praying with and for those who need it...

“Speak words of faith and courage that will be as a healing balsam to the bruised and wounded one. Many, many, have fainted and become discouraged in the great struggle of life, when one word of kindly cheer would have strengthened them to overcome. Never should we pass by one suffering soul without seeking to impart to him of the comfort wherewith we are comforted of God.”

E.G.W (The Desire of Ages, cp. 54, pg. 504)