

Compassion and Security

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. To show the bond between the compassion of the Lord for humankind and our security and safety in resting in the love of God.
 - 1. Psalm 86:15-17; Neh. 9:17; Joel 2:13
- B. You may not understand why God loves you, but you don't have to. You just have to believe it.

I. PROOF OF THE LORD'S COMPASSION

- A. Jesus' compassion for the lost
 - 1. For multitudes - Matt. 9:36, 14:14, 15:32
 - 2. For individuals - Mark 1:40-41, 5:18-19; Luke 7:11-15; Matt. 20:30-34
 - 3. He then taught and prayed for them - Mark 6:34; Matt. 9:37-38
- B. Five of Jesus' last words on the cross
 - 1. Luke 23:34 - "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Jesus' forgiving compassion for the mob
 - 2. Luke 23:43 - "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise." Jesus' compassion for a thief
 - 3. John 19:26-27 - "When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, Woman, behold your son! Then He said to the disciple, Behold your mother!" Jesus' compassion for his mother
 - 4. John 19:30 - "It is finished." Jesus' compassion for all men; He had fulfilled the work of redemption
 - 5. Luke 23:46 - "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." Jesus' compassion and trust for the Father

II. PROOF OF OUR SECURITY

- A. It is marked by Jesus' statement on the cross: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."
 - 1. In his book "Last Words Of Saints And Sinners," Herbert Lockyer wrote: "The seven last sayings of the King of Kings as He died upon a cross are unparalleled for their trust and triumph, power and pathos. These final cries prove that Christ died, not merely as a Victim, but as a Victor. Through the centuries, multitudes have been inspired by His example to manifest calm resignation in the presence of death and to greet it with a triumphant smile."
 - 2. Charles Spurgeon said: "He seems to lose sight of the fact that they were doing any wrong to Himself; it is the wrong which they were doing to the Father that is on His mind, the insult which they are paying to the Father, in the person of the Son. Christ was, through His importunity, coming between Almighty God and those who had broken away from God's just authority, those who had offended God and rebelled and revolted against God."

3. Craig S. Keener wrote: "Those who were executed were supposed to say, "May my death atone for all my sins"; but Jesus in mediation confesses instead the sin of those who falsely convicted him." (From the IVP Bible Background Commentary)

- B. He is patient and compassionate in spite of our ignorance and weakness
 - 1. His crucifiers were ignorant, all of them - Luke 23:34
 - a. Acts 3:13-17; 1Cor. 2:7-8
 - 2. Make you angry? You need someone to blame?
 - 3. Can you bring yourself to think of others compassionately enough to attribute their sins to ignorance or weakness? - 1Tim. 1:12-14
 - 4. Isa. 53:5-6, 12; 1Peter 2:24; Heb. 5:1-2
- C. Mark; 15:31 - "Likewise the chief priests also, mocking among themselves with the scribes, said, He saved others; Himself He cannot save."
 - 1. Because it was about saving us, not Himself!
- D. Is there anything that God will withhold from us, in view of what He has already freely given?
 - 1. While Jesus was being crucified and bullied beyond belief, he was trying to stand protectively between God and man - Luke 23:34
 - 2. While they were hurling insults and spittle at Jesus, God was preparing to pour His grace and mercy upon them - Rom. 5:8, 8:32
 - 3. While you are casually treating the call of the Gospel, cavalierly dismissing it to pursue your own pointless and puerile existence, God is patiently withholding judgment to give you time to be saved - 2Peter 3:9
- E. We know beyond doubt that the compassion of the Lord guarantees our security in this world for the world to come - 1Peter 1:3-5; John 10:28-29