

Feeling What Others Are Feeling

I. Introduction: Compassion “συμπαθής”, as it is used in one Scripture we will soon talk about, means: “having a fellow-feeling (“sympathetic”), i.e. (by implication) mutually commiserative: — having compassion one of another. Suffering or feeling the like with another, sympathetic” (Strong’s # 4835).

A. Many of us are fixers. What I mean by that is, when there is a problem concerning our brethren some of us are moved with compassion and want to solve that problem (i.e. **Acts 11:27-30**).

1. That is NOT wrong (**Mark 6:34** and **Luke 10:25-37**).
2. It is good to want to help (**I John 3:14-18**).
3. It is good for one to accept help (**Proverbs 12:15**).

B. Having said that, sometimes our brethren just need someone to be there for them in general and to this end we must be there for them (**Proverbs 17:17**).

II. Body: Have Compassion One Of Another (**I Peter 3:8**).

A. Whether joy or sorrow, we should be able to some degree to feel what our brethren are experiencing (**Romans 12:15** and **I Corinthians 12:26**).

1. For example, think about what happened when the formerly barren Elisabeth gave birth (**Luke 1:57-58**).
2. For example, think about what happened at the death of Lazarus (**John 11:30-36**).

B. Consider some lessons from Job...

1. Job was once perfect, upright, etc. [we know he sinned with his words and had to repent - **Job 32:1-42:6**]; had much of his life carnally ruined at the hand of Satan with God’s permission (**Job 1:1-2:10**).
2. When his friends heard of it they came and sat with Job (**Job 2:11-13**).
3. Had they just stopped right there and just sat with him, that would’ve been good. However, they began to ignorantly talk of many things at this time when Job needed support making many charges that were completely unfounded (**Job 4:1-9**, **Job 5:17**, **Job 5:27**, **Job 8:1-6**, **Job 8:20**, **Job 11:1-6**, and **Job 22:1-7**).
4. They assumed Job suffered because he had sinned. This is not a proper mode of thought (**Luke 13:1-5**, **John 9:1-3**, and **Acts 28:1-6**).
5. As we recently discussed, you aren’t in another person’s shoes to measure them (**II Corinthians 10:12**); so don’t make assumptions (**Proverbs 18:13** and **John 7:24**).

C. Let’s make sure we can be there for each other in whatever lawful capacity needed rather than falling asleep on the task (**Matthew 26:36-46**).

1. Nothing could be said to comfort Jesus at this time (**John 12:27**).
2. Sometimes we just need to be with someone (**I Corinthians 16:17-18**).

III. Conclusion: **Zechariah 7:8-10**