



Compassion in Our Daily Life

Devotion

The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion (Psalm 116:5).

The little boy cries in distress but no one seems to notice. Just a few moments later another little boy approaches, puts his arm around him and says, "Don't cry. I am here." What a simple statement but yet so reassuring and comforting! This is how the Lord reaches out to each of us reassuring us. "... *but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you,*" says the Lord your Redeemer (Isaiah 54:8).

Not only does the Lord promise to be ever compassionate and forgiving, but He reminds us to do the same for each other. *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you* (Ephesians 4:32).

Sometimes we think of compassion as doing the big things such as sending food for the starving citizens of another country. While our Lord Jesus did miraculous things out of compassion, as Matthew 14:14 says, *When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick,* He also commands us to show daily compassion to one another. "*This is what the Lord Almighty says: '... show mercy and compassion to one another'*" (Zechariah 7:9).

How do we show compassion daily? Think of the times each day when we see someone frowning, crying, or angry. Would a simple statement help them to see that someone cares, someone notices? There are times when a person is indeed "lonely in a crowd," feeling alone and forgotten. That is the time when compassion is needed the most. Pray that we become more observant in our daily lives and notice those who are in need of our loving presence. Help us to say the simple loving words that are needed at that time to show our compassion and love.

Daily life can be stressful for each of us. Let us show the same love for each other that our Lord has shown to us so we meet each day with renewed hope and determination. In Lamentations 3:22 we read, *Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.* Let our compassion for one another never fail just as the promise of our Lord for us.

Prayer: Lord help us daily to become more observant so that we learn to reach out to others at the time that it is needed the most. Guide us as we say words that show Your compassion for each person we reach or touch. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Scripture references are from the NIV.

Compassion in Our Daily Life
Written by Dr. MaryAnn Waldon, League City, Texas
Published by Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 2015