

## **COMPASSION/MERCY/MERCIFUL/PITY**

**Margaret Jacobs**

COMPASSION in the Bible is extremely varied. When applied to God or to Jesus Christ, it can denote an inner feeling of sympathy or love which is expressed outwardly in helping action; it can mean an affection or yearning similar to that of a parent for his child; it can signify simply forgiveness. Generally, however, it denotes the divine love, manifested in saving acts of grace, which God holds for his covenant people. Human mercy, on the other hand, is usually a consideration, manifested in outward works, for the condition and needs of one's fellow men.

COMPASSION of man in both the Old and New Testament and indeed today consists often in a consideration for the condition and needs of his fellow man, although it is usually the absence of such mercy which is noted. Therefore, mankind in warfare rarely shows consideration for the helplessness of the defeated or captive enemy.

COMPASSION (Godly) should denote an inner feeling of sympathy governed by love which is expressed outwardly in helping action.

OF GOD: Lam: 3:21-26

OF JESUS:

For the multitudes - Math 9:36, 14:14, 15:32

For the Unfortunate - Math 20:34

For Jerusalem - Math 23:37

For the Leper - Mk 1:41

For the Bereaved - Luke 7:13, John 11:35

OF MANKIND:

Pharaoh's Daughter - Exodus 2:6

Leaders in Israel - 2 Chron 28:15

The Good Samaritan - Luke 10:33-34

The Philippian Jailer - Acts 16:33

The Islanders - Acts 28:2

WORLD SCENE TODAY:

Middle East, Europe, Rwanda, Sudan, (Misguided Compassion)

A COMMITMENT TO GODLY COMPASSION AND LOVING KINDNESS