

The Compassionate Shepherd Study Guide

Introduction: What did you want to be when you grew up? Now that you have your call from God... it is what you want to be. Who fashions your image of what that looks like. It needs to be Jesus.

FOCUS: Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd. Peter refers to him as the Chief Shepherd, thus Jesus is our example of what a pastor (shepherd is) **1 Peter 5:2-4 (NIV) – We need to focus on Jesus the Compassionate Shepherd as our model for ministry.**

SCRIPTURE TEXT: 2 Cor 1: 3 – 5; Matt. 9:36

I. Jesus, like the Father was a compassionate and comforting Shepherd

- Father of Compassion – like a dad for his kids!
God of Comfort – no one can comfort like God can!

II. These Christlike Characteristics Should be True of Us

- Compassion best understood as it comes from the same root words for pity and mercy: oiktirmos
God is _____ in mercy - it never runs out of supply!
Mercy is seeing a need and being _____ to meet that need.
Pity in the bible is being _____-hearted.
Compassion means to sense the need of others from deep within, with a compelling desire to meet it.
- Comfort in Scripture is akin to consolation and encouragement: naraklesis
comfort – to call someone _____
consolation – to speak _____ one on one
encourage – to _____ up another

The text reminds us that we have received these things from Jesus in the midst of all our troubles, and that He in turns teaches us so that we can comfort others. Are we willing to learn, to be molded, and transformed into His image – compassion and comfort?

III. Are These Characteristics True of Me?

- Do people see us as compassionate?
- Are we remembered for bringing comfort to others?
- Illus: Barnabas – son of encouragement – what is our “nick-name”?

IV. We Must Be Conformed to His Likeness

These things are not true of us as a result of our own effort, but by the cleansing, transforming, empowering Spirit of God. (Rom. 12:1-2)

What then must we do to be so transformed – to become a pastor in the likeness of Jesus?

- **DESIRE** to be like Jesus – our _____ desire
- **BELIEVE** in his transforming _____
- **RECEIVE** all that the Holy Spirit has to offer
The _____ and _____ of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-26)
The power and love that comes from being _____ with the Spirit
- **EMBRACE** this image of ministry as your own.

V. CONCLUSION: If we embrace the Jesus model, it becomes a part of our calling. It is a way of life. We become people of compassion and comfort. We look at them as Jesus did as sheep without a shepherd, even the ones that are hard to love! We speak, preach, teach, reach, and serve with compassion doing our best to bring comfort to others. And we do so with great joy at the privilege of sharing in the sufferings as well as the victories that come from ministering for and like Jesus.

- **Change my heart O God...**
If we are struggling to love... change ME
If we are struggling to follow this model... change ME
If I need to let Jesus bring comfort and compassion to me so I can serve others the way He does... Lord come to ME
Let us pray

Benediction “Lord make us more like You.”

ANSWERS IN ORDER

II. rich compelled tender alongside tenderly lift
III. compassionate comfort
IV. supreme power patience and gentleness filled