

## **THE ROOTS of COMPASSION Week 2**

**Jonah 3:10-4:11 (NIV)**

### Our Question

“What does it mean that God has compassion on us?”

### **God’s compassion means....**

#### 1. He voluntarily attaches his heart to ours

Ancient Greek definition of Love

- Love of benevolence
- Love of attachment

**Hebrews 2:6 (ESV)**

“What is man, that you are mindful of him,  
or the son of man, that you care for him?”

#### 2. He is moved by our condition

**Jonah 4:11 (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”

**Matthew 23:37 (NLT)**

<sup>37</sup> “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God’s messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn’t let me.

### **A heart shaped by God’s compassion...**

#### **1. Neither avoids or enjoys confrontation**

**Matthew 11:15 (NLT)**

<sup>15</sup> Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!

**Proverbs 31:8-9 (NLT)**

<sup>8</sup> Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves;  
ensure justice for those being crushed.

<sup>9</sup> Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless,  
and see that they get justice.

**Proverbs 18:2 (NLT)**

<sup>2</sup> Fools have no interest in understanding;  
they only want to air their own opinions.

**2. Learns to love people**

**Jonah 4:10-11 (NIV)**

<sup>10</sup> But the LORD said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. <sup>11</sup> And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”

**Romans 12:9-10**

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

**3. Forgives Readily**

**Mark 2:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

**4. Expects and anticipates trouble**

**Jonah 4:9 (NLT)**

Then God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry because the plant died?” “Yes,” Jonah retorted, “even angry enough to die!”

**5. Chooses to embrace the pain and problems of others**

Empathy: The ability to **understand** and **share** the feelings of another.

Sympathy: **Feelings** of **pity and sorrow** for someone else's misfortune.

**Isaiah 53:3-6 (NIV)**

“He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God’s paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all.”