***"Restore Your Core" Series***

***"Flexing Our Four Core Values* -**

***#4* - *"Consistent Compassion"***

**Luke 10:30-37 - Feb. 23, 2020**

*How does God help us to understand our necessary response concerning Consistent Compassion?*

## Compassion means, "to suffer with another person".

## The word has a strong personal element as having compassion means more than just feeling sorry for somebody, it means to get down where they are in the midst of their need and to suffer with them in the midst of their pain.

## Compassion - *“A suffering with another in painful sympathy.”* -Noah Webster

## Biblical compassion means that you see the problem, you're moved by the need and you'll go out to where the problem is and get your hands dirty trying to help those in need get their problems solved to raise them up to a higher level in life.

## Matthew 14:14 - Matthew 15:32 - Matthew 20:34 - Mark 1:40+41 *Please don't project these - I plan to quickly recap them*

For Jesus, compassion wasn't a feeling it was a commitment to get involved with hurting people, as real compassion is more than a feeling, real compassion moves from feeling to action.

If people aren't feeling beaten, stripped and left half-dead by others (from being bullied by the brutal-hearted, ripped apart by broken relationships, left as castaways by Corporate America, or feeling forgotten or forsaken by family or friends), then many feel they are beaten, stripped and left half-dead by this world system we're in.

**Luke 10:30-32**

1) Where There Is Great Affliction, Most Pass By

Even the best of us can be tempted to "be on our way". After all, we're busy, we have obligations and responsibilities, we're not sure how to respond or what to do, we may feel endangered - there may be blood involved ("I'm not a doctor!"), or we're tired and already overwhelmed/stressed, it's messy, it can take a while, etc., etc.

A lot of our reasons may be valid or true, yet Jesus is demonstrating what true mercy is to look like. It is rarely convenient.

Within the church and beyond, God help us to not "pass by".

*"Following Christ may require doing some things that repulse us... Things that humanly speaking, (we're) incapable of doing".*

**Luke 10:33-35**

2) Where There Is Great Affliction, We're To Avoid Contradiction

We can't be Christians in name and not in deed, as that would be contradictory.

To be like Jesus and call Him 'Lord' means that we can't not do what He says/teaches.

We need to open our heart, give practical help and go the extra mile to be a good neighbor and extend real mercy.

We should especially do this toward those who we don't want to show mercy to, or who don't deserve it - as the Samaritan did toward the Jewish man.

The difference between grace and mercy is, grace is getting what we don’t deserve, and mercy isn't getting what we do deserve.

We don't have a problem with mercy if we're on the receiving end; it's when we're the one required to show mercy that we struggle, because the only kind of person to whom we can show mercy is one who doesn't deserve it.

The Good Samaritan is a beautiful picture of God's grace and mercy toward us, which we're to extend toward others. As the world leaves us for dead, it was Jesus Who is the true Good Samaritan, Who not only rescued but healed us, and then left an extra measure of care. So He tells us to do the same.

**Luke 10:36+37**

3) Where There Is Great Affliction, We're To Show Consistent Compassion

He continues to extend mercy to His children, and so should we... As well as toward those who aren't.

As we have been shown such mercy by God Himself, may He give us the desire and ability to do the same toward those who may not even deserve it.