

An Incorruptible Compassion

Easter Sunday



Sermon Text

Luke 18:31-33



Big Idea

Even with the shadow of the cross thick and dark as night upon our Savior, as we follow Him through the last few days of His life, we find that He is not bending in with self-pity but moving out with an incorruptible compassion.

(1) Compassion for the Physically Broken (Luke 18:35-43a)

There is no bending inward for Jesus here—“I’ve got more important things to worry about, blind man. Do you know the burden I am carrying? Quiet with your petty concerns!” No! There is compassion in the heart of our Savior. “Bring Him here. I want to talk to Him. I want to understand what He’s going through. And I want to heal Him.”

(2) Compassion for the Socially Outcast (Luke 19:1-10)

Upon first read of this story, it sounds like Jesus is asking Zacchaeus to take care of Him doesn’t it: “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today” (v. 5). “I’m coming over, stock your fridge, make up a bed. I want someone to take care of Me for a change!” But that’s not what Jesus is doing here. He’s not looking to get something to Zacchaeus. He’s looking to give something to Zacchaeus: “Today salvation has come to this house” (v. 9). “That’s why I’m here, to save you! ‘[T]o seek and to save the lost’ (v. 10).”

(3) Compassion for the Spiritually Backsliding (Luke 22:31-34)

If I’m Christ in this moment, I’m bitter, I’m resentful. “I don’t even want to talk to you Peter. I’m laying down my life for you and you can’t even stand up for me before a little servant girl?!” But there’s not even a hint of such a thing in our Savior’s words here. Just compassion. “I’m praying for you brother. I’m going to restore you brother. I still love you.”

(4) Compassion for the Bitter Enemy (Luke 23:39-43)

From what we know, it seems likely that this criminal had lived his entire life in opposition to the things of God. Matthew even indicates that, before this conversation recorded in Luke, this very criminal had been mocking Jesus along with the other (27:44). But in these last moments of his life, something shifted, something changed. And he cries out for mercy: “Jesus, remember me . . .” (v. 42).

How does Jesus respond? “Remember you? O I’ll remember you. I’ll remember you as the thief, the sinner, the blasphemer, the enemy.” No. He doesn’t say that, does He. Instead, Christ, moved with compassion for this man, invites him to be with Him where He is...forever: “[T]oday you will be with me in paradise” (v. 43).

Reflection Questions



- When you’re burdened with a lot personally, what happens to your attitude and your relationships? Why do you think this is the case? How does knowing Christ help?
- Have you ever been treated like a social outcast? How have you experienced this even in church? Why would Jesus be so willing to accept those whom others reject?
- Are there ways you have been backsliding or denying the Lord lately? Explain. Do you doubt the Lord’s willingness to forgive and restore you? How can we know that the Lord is ready to receive us, even after all we’ve done?
- We have all been God’s enemies at one time. What was it that kept you rejecting Him? What was it that finally opened you to receive Him?