

## THE WORD OF COMPASSION

<sup>25</sup> NEAR THE CROSS OF JESUS STOOD HIS MOTHER, HIS MOTHER'S SISTER, MARY THE WIFE OF CLOPAS, AND MARY MAGDALENE. <sup>26</sup> WHEN JESUS SAW HIS MOTHER THERE, AND THE DISCIPLE WHOM HE LOVED STANDING NEARBY, HE SAID TO HER, **"WOMAN, HERE IS YOUR SON,"** <sup>27</sup> AND TO THE DISCIPLE, **"HERE IS YOUR MOTHER."** FROM THAT TIME ON, THIS DISCIPLE TOOK HER INTO HIS HOME.

JOHN 19:25-27

THE WORLD \_\_\_\_\_ JESUS

*"Classical philosophers taught that 'mercy indeed is not governed by reason at all,' and humans must learn to 'curb the impulse'; 'the cry of the undeserving for mercy' must go unanswered...Pity was a defect of character unworthy of the wise and excusable only in those who have not yet grown up."*

E.A. Judge

THE \_\_\_\_\_: MATTHEW 15:3-6

\_\_\_\_\_: JOHN 8:2-5

\_\_\_\_\_: MATTHEW 2:16

# THE WORLD \_\_\_\_\_ JESUS

## THE \_\_\_\_\_: 1 TIMOTHY 5:8

## \_\_\_\_\_ : LUKE 8:1-3, LUKE 23:27, LUKE 24:9-10

*“This ‘near equality in the commemoration of males and females is something that is peculiar to Christians and sets them apart from the non-Christian populations of the city.’ This was true not only of adults, but also of children, as Christians lamented the loss of a daughter as much as that of a son, which was especially unusual compared with other religious groups in Rome.”*

*Rodney Clark, “The Triumph of Christianity”*

## \_\_\_\_\_ : MARK 10:13-16

## HOW CAN WE BE LIKE \_\_\_\_\_?

**Fill in the blanks:** before, elderly, Women, Children, after, elderly, Women, Children, Jesus

## LEAN INTO LENT

40 Days to Prepare Our Hearts for Easter

### WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is one of the oldest observations on the Christian calendar. It has changed over the years, but its purpose has always been the same: self-examination, self-denial, and turning from sin in preparation for Easter. No matter if Lent is completely foreign to you or if you have practiced it before but would like to experience Lent in a more meaningful way, we invite you to Lean into Lent by taking up these three practices:

- **LEAN INTO DAILY BIBLE READING**
- **LEAN INTO FASTING**
- **LEAN INTO THE WEEKLY CHALLENGES**

See the March 10 study guide for descriptions and practical suggestions for each of these.



## MONDAY - THE SETTING

Read John 19:25

What do you think Mary is feeling while she is waiting at the cross for Jesus to die?

Mary did not go alone. What does it tell you about these three women that were there with Mary?

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

When you were faced with difficulties in the past, who was there to support you?

Who are the people that can stand with you during difficult times today?

## TUESDAY - HIS MOTHER

Read John 19:25-27

What do you think Jesus was feeling as he looked down from the cross at his mother?

How would you paraphrase the words Jesus speaks to his mother and to John?

Why, of all the disciples, do you think John is at the cross?

What does Jesus entrusting his mother and John to each other say to you about the importance of your spiritual family?

## WEDNESDAY - HEART OF COMPASSION

Read Psalm 116:5, John 19:25-27

How does Jesus' heart of compassion show in this moment on the cross?

Read Psalm 34:18

From the beginning of his ministry to his last words, Jesus showed compassion to everyone, especially to those who were vulnerable or downtrodden. Who are the vulnerable people in our society that Jesus has given you a heart for?

How can you pray specifically for them today?

## THURSDAY - EXTENDING COMFORT

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Pray thanking God for the specific ways he has poured out his comfort and compassion to you.

As Christ followers, we are to extend comfort to others out of comfort we have received from Jesus. Which vulnerable people or victims (elderly, women, children, poor, etc.) is God calling you to advocate for or extend his comfort to?

## FRIDAY - EVERY PERSON MATTERS

Read Luke 8:42b-48

Jesus did not have to interact with this woman to heal her. Why do you think he took the time to do this? What does this reveal about Jesus?

When we desire to help the vulnerable in our community we can be tempted to just focus on what we DO to fix their circumstances. Jesus showed us that every person matters and how important it is to BE present with people as we serve.

How can you follow Jesus' example and show others that they matter to you and to God?

## SATURDAY - COMPASSION IN ACTION

Read James 2:14-17

As we spend time with Jesus and see the needs of the vulnerable and victims in our community, our hearts get filled with compassion. What does James say about compassion that does not turn into action?

How intentional have you been in putting your faith and compassion into action?

What is one specific action God is calling you to take this week?

### APPLY

Jesus called John to show compassion to and care for his mother. Who is God calling you to extend his comfort or care to?

### CHALLENGE

Just do it! Put your faith into action this week by taking one step to extend God's compassion to, or advocate for, someone in need.