

Part 1 - Compassion In Action

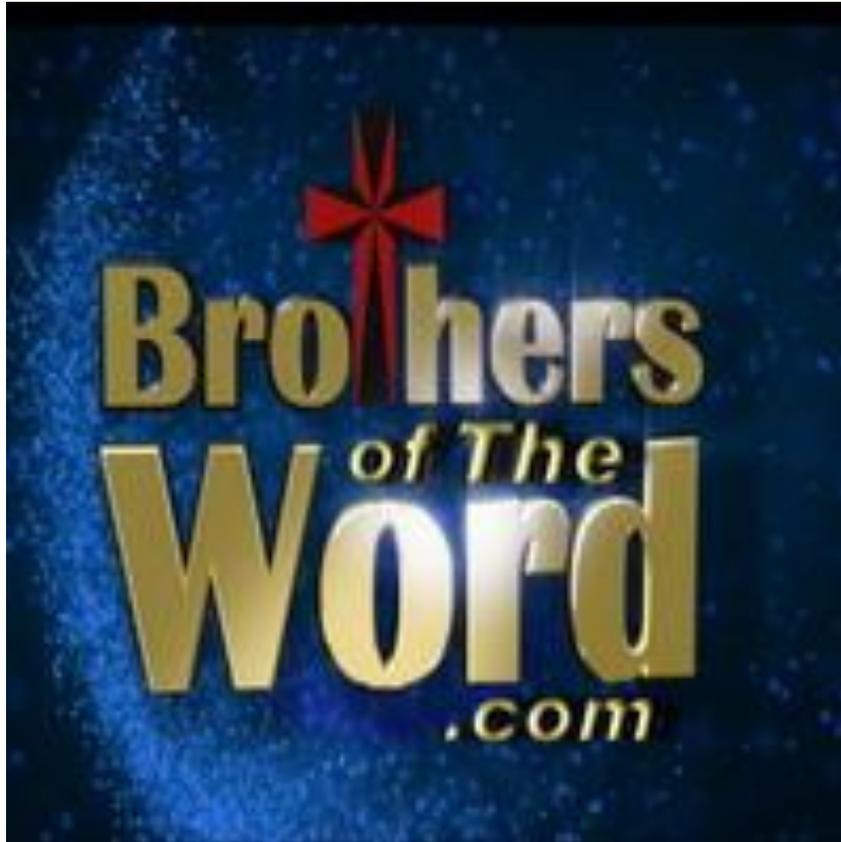
Sermon Title: **Part 1 - Compassion In Action**

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Speaker: **C. Elijah Bronner**

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C. Elijah Bronner: It's easy to hear the word, it's easy to know the word; but the problem comes in doing the word.

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(Music Playing: 00:00:22 - 00:00:51)

Female: And now for 7621, "Compassion In Action."

C. Elijah Bronner: Thank you for joining Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word.

We welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us online at BrothersofTheWord.com. Delighted to have you tune in with us on today.

Well, I would like to read just a little humor that came across this week. One pay day, an employee received an unusually large check. She decided not to say anything about it. In the following week, her check was for less than the normal amount and she confronted her boss. How come -- the supervisor inquire, "You didn't say anything when you overpaid? Unruffled, the employee replied, "Well, I can overlook one mistake but not two in a row."

Well, if you would open your Bibles with me to the Gospel of Luke, the Gospel of Luke 10, the Gospel of Luke 10. I want to use that as a subject today, "Compassion In Action." Compassion in action. I don't know, just for some reason, that word has been on my heart for a while. Compassion in action. So, we see a beautiful account of compassion in action in Luke 10, Luke 10:25-37. And this is parable of the Good Samaritan that we all know but it's one of the most powerful accounts(ph) of compassion in action. Beginning with verse 25. I may read some and teach some through it. We may not read it all at one time. But beginning with Luke 10, we'll start with verse 25. "And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, "Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He's an attorney, some scholars believed he could have been a scribe because he was trained in biblical law, the Law of Moses who's a

trained scholar. And so, some believe that he was part of the (00:03:00) or the scribes. So, he was part of the religious order of that day and they were constantly looking for ways to trap Christ. They were constantly plotting and scheming looking for ways to discredit him, to find him in era. They just wanted to do anything they could to distract from him, to take away from him, to bring him down. And so, this being an educated attorney trained in the law, he takes the (00:03:24) at it. And so, he asked this question and Jesus knows all thing, God knows all thing. So, God knew the intent of the heart even though the words of his mouth sounded good. God knew the intent of his heart. So, Jesus knew exactly what he was trying to do and Jesus played along with it. Jesus never wants called them out, Jesus never want to make mention of the fact that he was trying to scheme and trying to trap him. Jesus played right along with it.

See, when you're in authority, when you know who you are and whose you are, you don't have to play the world's games with them. So, he just remained cool. He remained himself and he allow the wisdom of God to flow through him and he operated just as cool as a cucumber. And that teaches us a lesson. You don't have to worry about when people scheming and trying to bring you down, people trying to plot against you; just remain cool, you just continue walking in the wisdom of God and just play it cool but don't never show your hand, just play it cool. So, that's what Jesus did. And so, I love the way he handled the situation.

All right, we just read verse 25. So, this lawyer asked what shall I do to inherit eternal life? Verse 26, Jesus replied and he said unto him, "What is written in the law?" So, Jesus now plays to the fact that he is a trained attorney, that he's an expert in the law. So, Jesus said, "What it is written in the law? What is written in the law of Moses? What is written in the old testament?" Law, how do you read it, how do you read it, how do you read it? And so, I just loved that. This is something to us, it says to us that, you know, the bible, because he is referring to God's word here, is of great use to us in life and on our way to heaven.

So, the bible is a tremendous guide book because this attorney is trying to find out how to have eternal life. And so, Jesus instructs him back to God's word. What does God word say about it? That says to us, you know, that we should consider who is in the bible and read it. The bible is important, not only to live this life but it also has strong implication to help us in the life to come on our journey through life to heaven, the bible is our guide. And so, Jesus refers him to the bible. He refers him to the bible. And so, this attorney, he did a good job. He answers correctly. He answers, he said, you know, Jesus said, "How do you read it? You know, what if you detected in the law as the key to eternal life?" And so, the attorney, he answered very well. He said, "Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy strength and with all thy mind and thy neighbor as thyself." So, he did a really good job. He's quoting, Deuteronomy 6:5 which says, "Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, mind and strength." Et cetera. And he's also quoting Leviticus 19:18 which says, "Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself." So, he took those two and join them together and he summarized the entire old testament law. So, he summarized them and distilled it down to those two things. And so, Jesus commended him and he says in verse 28, and he said unto him, "Thou his answered right." Thou his answered right. "This do." Now, that's what the problem is, the easy part was the answer, the hard part is doing it.

So, Jesus said, "This do." Everybody says, "This do." That's the hard part, that's the hard part. It's easy to hear the word, it's easy to know the word; but the problem comes in doing the word. That's what James 1:22 says to us, "Be not hearers of the word only but doers of the word." So, don't just hear the word, don't just know the word; do the word, be a doer of the word. And so, Jesus said, "You've answered that correctly, your answer sounds good but your challenge would be in doing those two things." That's the challenge, that's the challenge. And the great challenge was that people were failing to do those two things. And this is where we get really the revelation of grace because nobody under the law could satisfy, could properly, accurately, satisfied the demands and the justice of the law and that's why Christ came. He came to fulfill the law and so by Moses, the law came, but by Christ Jesus grace came. And so, what Jesus really wanted to say, "You can't have eternal life unless I give it to you. Unless you receive the grace of God

through me.” And so, he was grace, he was grace. The man was looking at eternal life. He was looking at eternal life in other words, you can’t work your way in the heaven. You can’t work your way in the heaven. You can’t work your way in the heaven.

And so, I’m sure Jesus will just took because this man trying to figure out how to work his way in heaven. You can’t, and that’s why God sent Christ Jesus. Aren’t you happy he sent Christ Jesus? He sent Christ Jesus. You can’t. Nobody could properly, love God completely, totally, I mean loving him with everything you’ve got. He’s your everything, he’s your full desire, he accomplishes, there’s nothing else, no one -- I mean, that’s a tall order, that’s a tall order. And to not mention in loving your neighbor as yourself. So, nobody under the law was fulfilling those two things. And so, Jesus, I’m sure he was smiling because the solution to eternal life was standing before him. And he didn’t even know it, he didn’t even know it. The solution to eternal was standing before him. And so, you know, he commends among those two things; love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. Love your neighbor. So, we do love God, we do love our neighbor and you can actually say the goal, the rule as far as your neighbor is simply doing unto others as you would have others to do unto you. That’s really loving your neighbor as yourself. “Doing unto others as you would have others to do unto you.”

I like something that legendary coach, Lou Holtz said, and he had that one of his three life principles. He said, “Number one, do what’s right.” Do what’s right. This as his three life rules, his three success rules. He said, “Do what’s right.” He said, “Number two, do your very best.”

00:10:01

Number one, do what’s right. Number two, do your very best. If you want the best that the world has to offer, you have to offer the world your best. And so, he said, “Do what’s right, do your very best.” And number three, he said, “Treat others as you would have others to treat you.” And those were his three principles for success. Do what’s right, do your very best and treat others as you would have others to treat you. Just grabbing a hold of those three (00:10:31), so take your long way in life. Do what’s right, do your very best, treat others the way that you would have others to treat you.

And so, back to our parable here. This lawyer, he finally asked after Jesus begins to converse with him. In verse 29 after Jesus told him, you know, “This do.” Verse 29, the attorney replied by saying, but he willing to justify himself said into Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” Who is my neighbor, because he realized that was the tall order, to love his neighbor as himself. And so, he wanted to do was to limit the scope of who is neighbor was. He wanted to limit that scope. And so, doing these times, the Jews considered other Jews their neighbors. And that’s what they consider they’re neighbors. They didn’t consider gentiles as their neighbor. They could care less about the gentiles. They will only concern about their own brethren. And so, you know, they will only concern about other Jews, they would concern about their nation, they would concern about their religion. So, they look at it as, as long as the person is part of our group, part of our nation, part of our religion and that was their thinking, those are considered our neighbors. They didn’t look at outsiders as neighbors. They didn’t look at outsiders as neighbors. But Jesus, through this account, he reveals that your neighbor is anyone in need. Your neighbor is anyone in need regardless of raise, regardless of background, regardless of religion, regardless of any other qualifications you want to put on it. Your neighbor is anyone in need. That’s what your neighbor is. Your neighbor is anyone in need.

And so, Jesus reveals who our neighbor is. Now, we should love our neighbor. I’m going to give you some reasons why we should love our neighbor. But number one is that’s God’s commandment. We should love our neighbor because that’s God’s commandment. Number two, we should love our neighbor because Jesus was our example. And Jesus love, that’s all he did, Jesus love the people wherever he went, he loves his neighbor. So, he being our chief example gives us a demonstration that we should follow. So, that’s the second reason we should love our neighbor. The third reason we should love our neighbor is because we will be judge doing that. We will be judge – remember Jesus gave the illustration, he says there will be sheep on his right hand and goats on his left hand and he will tell to the goats, you know, depart from me because I was hungry and you didn’t feed me; I was naked, you didn’t clothed me; I was in prison, you didn’t visit me; I was sick, you didn’t take care of me. So, part of our judgement does come from the fact of loving our neighbor. Jesus did reveal that there is a

judgment that apart of our judgement is how we treated our neighbor, how we treated our neighbor.

Mother Theresa says, she said, "The most enduring impact of a person can have on earth is how you treated other people." That's the most enduring impact that you can have on earth is how you treated other people, how you treated other people, how you treated other people. Our spirituality is not measured by our bible study attendance, it's not measured by our study of the bible, it's not measured by prayer life; your spirituality is measured by how you treat other people, how you treat other people. Because God said how can you love him when you haven't seen and you don't love your brothers who you see every day. And so, the greatest measure of our spirituality is how you treat other people, it's dhow you treat other people.

So, those are three things -- so, we should love our neighbors because, you know, that's God's commandment, because Jesus is our example, also because we'll be judge on how we treated other people. And number four, this is, in my opinion, the best reason. Turn to your neighbor, said, "This is the best reason." This is the best reason. Number four, we should love our neighbor because how we live our lives and love our neighbor is the most eloquent way in which we tell others of Jesus. I'm going to say that again, how we live our lives and how we love our neighbors, that is the most eloquent way to tell others of Jesus.

00:15:05

That is the most eloquent way to tell others of Jesus. This is one of the most exciting ways that people will ever see Jesus and come to know him when they see how you treat and love your neighbor. I wish I had one or two witnesses.

Flip over to John 13, the Gospel of John. Just one book to the right, you hit the gospel of John 13. Let me just show you the scripture here. John 13:34-35. When you get there say, "Amen." Notice what he says, "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." Verse 35, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." It's the greatest witness of telling other people about Jesus is how we love our neighbor. That's the greatest witness. Someone said, I like this, he said, "Preach the gospel wherever you go, use words if you

have to.” Because that’s the demonstration of how we live and how we treat one another. It really shows your Christianity, it really shows Christ, Christ. In there something, we don’t have to tell people about Christ, just show them Christ. Just show them Christ, show them Christ, show them Christ. A picture is worth more than a thousand words. You don’t have to say whole of that, just show them Christ. Just show them Christ.

There was a woman and she had run across the little boy who was sort of (00:16:57) didn’t have any shoes on his feet. She saw him outside of a shoe store, looking through the window. She walked up to him patted him on his back, went inside and bought him a pair of shoes and brought him out. Put them on his feet. Little boy looked up, he said, “Ma’am, are you God’s wife?” See, you don’t have to say anything. If something about when we demonstrate love, when we demonstrate love, it speaks of Christ, it speaks of Christ, it reveals Christ, it reveals Christ. God is love. God is love. So, we get busy loving, we get busy revealing God. Praise God, praise God.

Now, it’s interesting and we’re going to have to pick up with this next time. But it’s interesting in this account, it’s interesting in this account and we going to get until some exciting things. But when you begin talking about the needs of other people, it brings out various attitudes in us. And so, Jesus uses this account to clearly show which attitude is acceptable to him. In this account, you will find that the lawyer’s attitude, he treated the wounded man -- you all know the parable of the good Samaritan. But in the parable of the good Samaritan, the wounded man, the lawyer treats him as the topic of discussion. The thieves and robbers, they treated him as an object to use and exploit. The priest who cross over the other side of the road, they treated the wounded man as the problem to avoid. The Levite, before he crossed over, he walked over and looked at the wounded man. He treated him as an object of curiosity. He looked at him. The innkeeper who received him into his hotel, he treated him as a customer to receive a fee from. He treated the wounded man as a customer to receive a fee from. But the Samaritan treated him as a person to love, as a person to love. And we going to get into this next time.

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