



World Christian Fellowship

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Compassion of God

Luke 13:34-35

Luke 13:34-35, *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing! ³⁵ See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ”*

Last week we studied about the History of Israel.

This week we are going to see the content of this passage.

1. Compassion
2. Judgement
3. Hope

Compassion of our Lord.

V 34, *“Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her. How often I wanted to gather your*

children together just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings and you would not have it."

This is nothing but the heartbreak of God. There's no way in the world that you can view God as being indifferent to those who perish.

The word of God says that God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked.

Ezekiel 18:23, *Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?" says the Lord God, "and not that he should turn from his ways and live?*

Ezekiel 33:11, *Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord God, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'*

1 Timothy 2:4, *who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

2 Peter 3:9, *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

The Old Testament says He finds no pleasure in the death of the wicked. He finds grief in the death of the wicked. Jerusalem stands for the whole nation.

"Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem that kills the prophets."
It's not limited just to that city.

Although, many of the prophets were killed in Jerusalem, it's simply a representation of the whole nation and the phrase is "that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her" are parallel." They say the same thing.

You kill the prophets. You stoned those that were sent to you.
The messengers of God you killed.

Luke 11:47-51, *Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and your fathers killed them.⁴⁸ In fact, you bear witness that you approve the deeds of your fathers; for they indeed killed them, and you build their tombs.⁴⁹ Therefore the wisdom of God also said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute,'⁵⁰ that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation,⁵¹ from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation.*

"You," this generation alive right then, when Jesus was there, you are charged with the accumulated guilt of all of Israel's sins, of all of people's sins, all humanity's sins against the true saints of God, the true prophets of God.

You are charged with the blood of everybody from Abel, the first martyr, to Zechariah, the final martyr in the Old Testament, that prophet who was killed by the Jewish people in the temple area.

You are charged with the blood of all of them.

How in the world could that generation be charged with the blood of all of that?

They have the truth of God.

they had it for a long time.

The Law was fully completed. This was 400 years after the Old Testament completed. They knew the law of God.

Not only that, they knew the history of divine judgment. They had rejected the divine law and ignored divine judgment.

They have accumulated guilt because they have the accumulated revelation and the accumulated warnings.

They knew about the destruction of the first temple because of sin and disobedience.

They knew about the desecration of the second one. They knew about the captivities. They knew what God expected.

Theirs is an accumulated guilt, but God is still heartbroken. While God is righteous and holy and therefore angry about sin, He is at the same time perfectly compassionate.

His compassion is as perfect as His justice. His tender-heartedness is equal to His anger.

Psalm 86:15, *But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.*

God is,

- Merciful,
- Gracious,
- Slow to anger, and
- Abounding in loving-kindness.

Psalms 111:4, *He has made His wonderful works to be remembered; The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.*

Psalms 112:4, *Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness; He is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.*

Psalms 145:8-9, *The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy. ⁹The Lord is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works.*

God is **El Rachum** the compassionate one.

Also, **El Malai Rachamim** the one full of mercy.

Islamic tradition closely related language of Arabic, in which two of the principle names of God are Rahman and Rahim, these words are closely related to the word for womb.

In Islamic Tradition many of the Surahs (chapters) of the Qur'an begin with the words Bismillah ir-Rahman ir-Rahim – translated by one scholar as 'in the name of God merciful to all, compassionate to each'.

God's nature in Jewish tradition and Islamic tradition could be seen as being womb-like, nurturing and holding, as a mother's womb nurtures and holds the growing child within her, giving of herself.

Remember the cry of God through the Prophet of Hosea?

Hosea 11:8, *"How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I set you like Zeboiim? My heart churns within Me; My sympathy is stirred.*

Lamentations 3:22, *"The Lord's loving-kindness indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They're new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness."*

God is compassionate.

Christ as God had the same compassion.

Mark 1:41, *Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed."*

Jesus was moved with compassion when He saw the leper. It tells us in Matthew's gospel that when He saw the people like sheep without a shepherd, He was moved with compassion.

Luke 15, when the prodigal son came home, his father again was moved with compassion, ran out, kissed him, and embraced him.

God is a God of compassion. He feels pain.

That's what compassion means: "to suffer with."

To show us His pain, He even speaks of it.

Matthew 23:34-35, *Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city,³⁵ that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.*

Isaiah:

Manasseh the son of Hezekiah slew Isaiah with a wooden saw.

Amos

From the land of Tekoa. The priest of Bethel tortured him and afterwards slew him.

Micah

The tribe of Ephraim and was slain by Joram the son of Ahab. This (prophet) prophesied concerning the destruction of the temple of the Jews.

Habakkuk

The tribe of Simeon, and prophesied concerning the Messiah, that He should come, and abrogate the laws of the Jews. The Jews stoned him in Jerusalem.

Zechariah the son of Jehoiada

2 Chronicles 24:24-25, *For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men; but the Lord delivered a very great army into their hand, because they had forsaken the Lord God of their fathers. So they executed judgment against Joash. ²⁵And when they had withdrawn from him (for they left him severely wounded), his own servants conspired against him because of the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest, and killed him on his bed. So he died.*

Jeremiah

The Jews stoned Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah in Egypt, because he rebuked them for worshipping idols.

Ezekiel

The priestly tribe, and chief of the Jews who was in the land of the Chaldeans slew him, because he rebuked him for worshipping idols.

Ahijah

From Shilo, a lion slew this prophet.

Zechariah the son of Berachiah.

The priest was from Jerusalem. The king slew this (prophet) between the steps and the altar and sprinkled his blood upon the horns of the altar, and the priests buried him.

From that day God forsook the temple, and angels were never again seen in it.

Our Bible today, the Old Testament ends with the book of Malachi. But for the Hebrews, for the Jews in those days, their Bible the first book is Genesis, but the last book is 2 Chronicles.

So what Jesus is saying that the beginning to end of your history, you have always murdered My people.

So, I will send you more, and you will murder them, and then it will come upon you all the blood of righteous people shed on earth.

When Abel died, God said to Cain.

Genesis 4:10, *“What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground.”*

What is the blood of Abel crying for?

Crying for justice.

How is it that this wicked man could kill the righteous man?

It is unjust!

Therefore, there is a cry for justice, way in the beginning.

V 34, *“How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings.”*

How often I wanted to gather your children together?

Into the safety of His saving love, into a protected place.

“How often” - indicates a constant desire.

It isn't a matter of how many times He went to Jerusalem and seeing Jerusalem felt this way. He felt this way all the time.

This refers not just to His frequent trips to Jerusalem, which are chronicled predominantly by John in his gospel, but also in the other gospels.

Jesus is simply saying this is an ever-present reality. He wanted to gather them together in a safe and protected place.

To protect them from what?

Protect them from Himself!

All judgements were given to Him.

To protect them from the very God of compassion, who would become the God of wrath.

The imagery is the farm which all these people knew very well. A chicken hawk circling above looking down on a mother hen sees a chick and wants to dart down and grab that little chick if it's out of the safe shelter of its mother's wings.

Or perhaps a storm is approaching, and lightning is flashing, and electrical discharges are everywhere and a cloud bursts and all of a sudden, the little ones run into the shelter of a mother hen's protection.

That is the kind of imagery they were used to seeing and that's what He says.

The actual word for hen is "bird."

V 34, *How often I wanted to gather your children together just as a bird gathers her brood under her wings."*

While God is the judge and God is the avenger and God is the executioner, this is not all there is about God. When you ask the question: Being saved from what?

The answer is you are saved by God from God.

You are saved by Christ, from Christ.

You are saved from the very judgment that God Himself brings.

Of course, this is the heart of God and it's always been that way and they knew that.

Deuteronomy where all this was set in motion, where all the promises of blessing and cursing were made.

Deuteronomy 32:11-12, *As an eagle stirs up its nest, Hovers over its young, Spreading out its wings, taking them up, Carrying them on its wings, ¹²So the Lord alone led him, And there was no foreign god with him..*

God pictures Himself like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that hovers over its young.

He spreads His wings and caught them.

He carried them on His pinions.

The picture here is of God the protector. The imagery is beautiful!

An eagle's next, the little eagles basically are kicked out of the nest and as they flop and flutter the eagle flies under them and, spreading great wings, catches them in mid-air. He guards them. They knew that.

They knew God was there to hide them under His wings, to catch them as they fell. They understood that that was what the Old Testament promised.

God comes in Christ and says that the,

- ✓ Kingdom,
- ✓ Peace,
- ✓ Forgiveness,
- ✓ Salvation, and
- ✓ Heaven

All are yours!

They even knew that in Jewish tradition Gentile converts were said to have come under the wings of the Shekinah.

This is the heart of God.

V 34, "*You would not.*"

They refused God's protection.

They refused God's love.

They refused God's salvation.

They refused His kingdom.

This is their history.

It's always this way:

- Rebellious,
- Disobedient,
- Against the will of God,
- killing the prophets,
- Stoning the Prophets, and finally,
- Killed Messiah Himself.

Romans 10:21, *"I have stretched out my hands all day long to a disobedient and obstinate people."*

Paul is quoting from **Isaiah 65:2**.

All day long I reached out.

All day long I put my wings out to catch you.

You didn't want it.

All day long I wanted to gather you and protect you and you would not.

You didn't want it.

That's the issue.

It is always the issue with sinners, people who perish, because they don't want it. The gospel gives no place to absolute determinism. While we believe in divine election and sovereign election and that those who are saved are saved by the will and the power and the sovereign choice of God, at the same time, we believe the Bible is crystal clear on teaching that people

perish and go to hell because they refuse to believe. They make that choice.

The Bible is filled with those kinds of invitations and those kinds of statements which hold the sinner completely responsible.

Matthew 22:1-14, Jesus tells The Parable of the Wedding Feast.

Parable is about a king who was going to give a wedding feast for his son. The king is God and the son is Christ. This is the time to come and be a bride to the son. This is the time to come and be saved and be part of the kingdom.

Sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding. Wedding in the ancient days lasted for a week or up to a week. It was a long event. You had to feed all those people all that time.

Massive preparations had to be made for that, preparing the food, accommodations, housing people, etc. Doing this the actual event began in an undetermined time.

What they did was that they pre-invited guests. Sent out invitations that the wedding is going to take place and you have an invitation. We will give you notification when it's time for it to begin.

They had the pre-invited guests waiting to hear that it had begun.

Pre-invited guests to the wedding of God's son was Israel.

It was the Jews who were the pre-invited guests.

They were invited through the whole Old Testament.

They were invited through whole ministry of Jesus.

They were invited by John the Baptist to enter the kingdom, by Jesus, by the twelve, by the seventy that were sent out.

Jesus said, He sent out His slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast and they were unwilling to come!

They were unwilling to come!!

Everything is ready.

The feast is ready.

They didn't pay any attention and one of them went to his own farm, one to his business.

They were the indifferent. Some others seized the servants who came to get them, mistreated them, and murdered them. Exactly that is what happened to the apostles. The king was angry and sent his armies and destroyed those murderers, set their city on fire. This looks ahead to the destruction of Jerusalem.

He said we still have a wedding so go in the highways, in the streets and everywhere you can go and let us fill up this place.

That is the church.

Israel forfeits its opportunity, because Israel is unwilling.

John 5:40, *But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.*

This is something we should be very clear on. People perish because they will not come.

The Parable of Great Supper:

We looked at this parable in detail couple fo weeks before.

Luke 14:15-24,

A man gives a dinner, invites people, and says to his slave, "Go get those who have been invited." That's Israel.

"Tell them come, for everything's ready."

They all made excuses.

- I bought a piece of land. I need to go and look at it.
- I have got five oxen.
- I want to say farewell to my dyeing father.

All kinds of excuses.

They aren't all hostile.
They aren't all murderous.

Slave came back and said, "Nobody wants to come." He says, "*Go to the streets, get the lame people, the poor, the crippled, the blind, the lame. Go into the highways, the hedges, compel them to come. My house may be filled.*"

They didn't want to come.
They were unwilling to come.

Stephen, preaching in his sermon before they crushed him under the bloody stones.

Acts 7:51-52, *"You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. ⁵² Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers,*

- You are doing just what your fathers did.
- You are always resisting.
- You resist.
- You are unwilling.
- You don't want it.

There is no salvation without an act of the human will.

God's sovereignty does not obviate human responsibility.
This is not absolute determinism.

We don't know how God works all those things in His own mind,
but that's not a problem for us.

God is God!

Luke 19:14, *"But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this man to reign over us.'*

Matthew 11:28-30, *Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

Isaiah 55:1-3, *"Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. ²Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance. ³Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you— The sure mercies of David.*

Revelation 22:17, *And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.*

They don't come for a very simple reason and it's always the same.

John 3:18-19, *"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

They love their sin.

Conclusion:

When you give the gospel to people you will know what the issue is. Once you clarify the gospel, to make something clear that is nobody's good enough to get to heaven.

Nobody's good enough to get to heaven. Only one ever satisfied God's law perfectly that's Jesus Christ.

Only Jesus Christ satisfied God's law and God will impute credit, His perfect righteousness to you if you put your trust in Him as your Saviour.

We offer the Gospel in clearest terms but its up to them to accept it.

You and me can't determine what anybody's going to do with the Gospel, but we need to be faithful to discharge it to the hearers.

When they don't accept the offer then we weep over the unwillingness of the sinner to repent.

Jesus wept because of this unwillingness to believe.
It grieved His heart and it should grieve ours as well.

Acts 3:14-15, *But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,¹⁵ and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.*

What a rejection!

But yet Peter goes on to preach to them.

Acts 3:19, Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

Peter pleads with them.

Acts 3:26, *To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.”*

It's always been God's way.

I want to bless you.

I have sent my son, my servant to bless you.

How?

By turning every one of you from your wicked ways.

He wants to bless you. He's always wanted to bless you. Chapter 4 says, and as they were speaking, the priests, the captain of the temple guard, the Sadducees, this is all the religious leaders, came on them, being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead and they laid hands on them and put them in jail.

What are you going to do?

The next day, they told them to stop doing that.

It's a matter of the will, and the sinner is responsible for being unwilling.

When men set their will to reject Him, He accepts their rejection.

Jerusalem was Messiah's capital city and the very house of God. Christ did not raise an army nor use His miraculous powers to drive out Israel's rebellious priesthood out of His Father's house.

Instead, He let them throw Him out of both the temple and the city. What had been His Father's and His, He left in their hands. If men used the will God has given them to reject the Saviour neither God nor Christ will overrule that will or remove it. That does mean of course that puny man has the power to defeat the will of the Almighty. It was always God's will that man's will should be free, and man be able to say no to God if he chooses."

Simeon said this child is for the rising and the falling of many.

Luke 2:34-35, *Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against ³⁵ (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."*

Why would God weep unless He was sad over what men chose to do?