

The Gift

◆◆◆ OF ◆◆◆
COMPASSION

December 6, 2020
Pastor Eric Wakeling

Compassion Needed Isaiah 49:15

What is compassion?

- Exodus 34:6 - *"The Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, 'The Lord, The Lord God, **compassionate** and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth.'*"
- Rakhum - Hebrew for compassion, deeply moved. Rekhem - Hebrew for womb.
 - Isaiah 49:15 - *"Can a woman forget her nursing child, and have no **compassion** on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you."*
- Oiktirmos - Greek for compassion, pity, mercy.
 - 2 Corinthians 1:3 - God is the *"Father of **compassion**."*
- The Latin roots of compassion are to "suffer with" or "suffer together."
- Immanuel - God with us.
- The birth of Christ and His incarnation are the ultimate display of God's compassion.

Why do we need compassion?

- "Long lay the world, in sin and error pining" - O Holy Night
- Psalm 51:1 - *"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great **compassion** blot out my transgressions."*
- Romans 5:8 - *"while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*
- Isaiah 30:18 (NIV) - *"Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you **compassion**."*

An opportunity to live out God's compassion

- Mark 6:34 - *"When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had **compassion** on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd."*
- Mark 1:41 - *"Moved with **compassion**, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him (the leper) and said to him, 'I am willing, be cleansed.'"*
- We have an opportunity to sponsor 250 children in extreme poverty in a similar region in Guatemala and tangibly display the compassion of God and the gospel itself. You can find more information and choose a child to sponsor at calvarylife.org/compassion

Communion: We will give thanks and remember God's "suffering with" us as Immanuel through participating in the Lord's Supper together after the sermon.

(If you are joining us online, be sure to find some bread and juice to take communion at home. Whatever elements help you to remember the body and blood of Jesus and celebrate the good news found in Him).

DIGGING DEEPER

Isaiah 49:15

1 Preparation

If possible, find a quiet and comfortable place. Rid yourself of distractions such as your phone, television, school work, interruptions from others, etc. Open yourself to God and intend to learn from Him. **"Lord, here I am, I present myself to You. Open my heart to the truth of what is going on in my life."**

2 Read the Text: Isaiah 49:15

Read the text a few times until you have a clear understanding of what the passage is saying.

3 Contemplate + Journal

Spend time thinking about and journaling your thoughts to the following questions. If you meet with a LifeGroup, you can also share your responses with them and have a great discussion.

- What is a word or phrase the Lord impressed on you in this time? Meditate on that.
- Ask the Lord, "Lord, how have I experienced compassion from you in my life? Are there particular seasons where I felt your compassion more intently?"
- Ask the Lord, "Lord, where are you inviting me to open my heart to you, to let you love me, and experience your great compassion? And, Lord, what would it look like to rest in your compassion today?"
- How and what do you feel? Is there a specific situation in your life that relates to this passage today? Pray through this for a moment.

4 Praise + Worship

Worship is an act or mindset shift that realigns us to the reality of who God is. Find this song on Spotify, YouTube, AppleMusic, etc. and the lyrics if you would like to read or sing along. Make this song your prayer and declaration of praise and worship as you hear truths being sung over you. Allow the Lord to minister to your heart in this time.

Song Recommendation: "Lord I Need You" by Matt Maher

5 Closing Prayer

Spend some time in prayer. Whether it is simply sitting in God's loving presence, expressing thankfulness and gratitude, and/or offering up supplication, pray what is on your heart.

6 Blessing

May you experience the great compassion that our Lord Jesus Christ has for you as you open to His amazing grace and mercy for you.

CHRISTMAS AT CALVARY



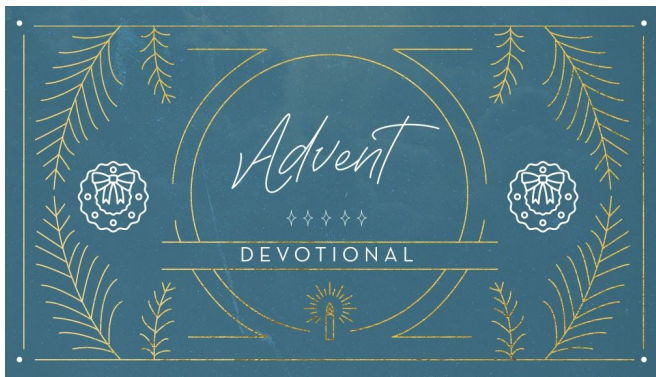
SPONSOR A CHILD

Prayerfully consider how you can help change the story for one child in need. Learn more about this opportunity at CalvaryLife.org/Child



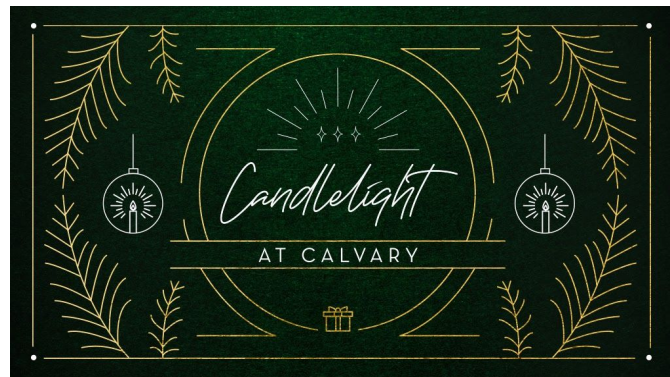
DECEMBER 13 at 4PM

Join us online for a Christmas carol singalong and a virtual tree lighting! Find ways to watch the livestream event at CalvaryLife.org/Sing



WEDNESDAYS 7PM

Connect with Pastor Matt Doan for a LIVE midweek Advent Hour devotional on Calvary's Facebook + YouTube Channel. CalvaryLife.org/Advent



DECEMBER 23 & 24

With limited seating at each service, we want to make sure we save you a seat. Reserve your spots today on our App or visit CalvaryLife.org/RSVP

NEXT STEPS

Your Response Today: Do you want to take a next step in your faith, ask for prayer, or learn more about following Jesus? Take a moment to fill out our online connection card by texting "**Card**" to **970-00**

Connect with the Church Center App: Connect to life at Calvary, watch service live, view sermons on-demand, register for events, listen to our podcast, and so much more. Discover details at CalvaryLife.org/App

Family Activities: Find ways to help your kids grow through fun activities to build their faith each Sunday and throughout the week with great resources provided by Calvary Town at calvarylife.org/town

Find Help or Give Help: Do you need assistance or encouragement in this season? Or, do you want to get involved and be available to help others in need? Find ways to receive help or give help at calvarylife.org/help

Ways to Give: Your generosity and faithfulness is making a difference locally and globally! You can give today using the Offering Boxes available on campus or give online at calvarylife.org/give



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