

## Compassion is Action

In the ministry records of Jesus' life, we clearly see his compassion for others. When people called upon him, he graciously poured out his compassion upon them. Jesus' compassion was expressed in his action. Jesus did not just wave at Zacchaeus when he was up in the tree. He invited him to dine with him. Jesus did not say to the crippled man on the mat, "I'm sorry you are unable to walk." He was moved to action and healed the man. He enabled the man to walk, perhaps for the first time in his life. Over and over, we see Jesus acting with compassion toward those in need. At Jesus' hand, people are healed from illness, delivered from sin and fed when hungry.

When a loved one dies or perhaps the loss of employment or a serious illness has overtaken you or someone you love, your life feels shattered. It is Jesus, who always responds to our needs with compassionate action. Are you bold enough to ask Jesus to heal your broken heart? We never return empty when we go to God with our heart-felt requests. It is during a time of grief we receive hope. By his grace, in his timing and in keeping with his purpose, his faithfulness is revealed.

Even as we receive God's compassionate action in our lives, we are further enabled to extend that compassion to others, asking "What will my compassionate action be?" Will I pray daily for others or send them notes of encouragement? Perhaps it will be providing transportation to church, to a doctor's appointment, a meal or needed supplies such as diapers or bath tissue. Unique in every situation but identifiable as gestures of compassion, the actions should reflect God's love into the lives of others. Pass on the blessings of compassion with action expressed in love.

To God be the Glory.