

Quarter One: God's Love and Justice

Jill Morikone

Lesson 4—God Is Passionate and Compassionate

Thursday: Compassionate and Passionate

January 23, 2025

- **Last Week:** “To Be Pleasing to God”
 - How we can be pleasing to God, in Christ
- **This Week:** “God Is Passionate and Compassionate”
 - Emotions are not inherently or intrinsically bad – God Himself possess great emotion
 - Study of the emotions of God

Memory Text: “‘Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you’” (Isa 49:15, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** More Than a Mother's Love (Daniel)
 - Multiple Scriptures – the depth of God for His children – like a parent for their child – God's love (compassion in Gk) derived from Gk for “womb” (womb-like mother-love)
- 2. **Monday:** Gut-Wrenching Love (John L)
 - Hos 11 – God's deep love for His wayward children
- 3. **Tuesday:** The Compassion of Jesus (John D)
 - Multiple Scriptures – Jesus possessing the same compassion & deep, protective love over His people as God is portrayed as having (in the OT)
- 4. **Wednesday:** A Jealous God? (Kenny)
 - Multiple Scriptures – the godly jealousy God has for His people (desiring an exclusive relationship with them)
- 5. **Thursday:** Compassionate and Passionate (Jill)
 - 1 Cor 13 – how to demonstrate God's compassionate & passionate love to others

Thursday: Compassionate and Passionate

1 Cor. 13:4 – 8; Isa 63:9; Heb 4:15; Jud 10:16; Luke 19:41; Isa 49:10, 15; Matt 9:36; 14:14; Rom 5:5; 1 Thess 3:12, 13

- God is Love (1 John 4:8)
- He cares deeply for His people
 - Luke 19:41 – “Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it.”
 - Isa 63:9 – “In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the Angel of His Presence saved them; in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bore them and carried them all the days of old.”
 - He cares for our woundings & afflictions
 - He cares we are lost & came to redeem us
 - He carries us

- Heb 4:15 – “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”
 - He sympathizes, but is able to help & save
- His love is jealous
 - Wants exclusive relationship with His people
- We are called to extend that love to others
 - John 13:34, 35 – “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. (35) By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
 - It’s “new” because it draws its power from the Cross
 - God loves us - & He desires us to show His love to others
 - **Takeaway:** Self-sacrificing love is the strongest argument in favor of Christianity
 - 1 Thess 3:12, 13 – “And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, (13) so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.”
 - How are we made blameless & holy? How are our characters made like Jesus?
 - As God enables us to increase & abound in love to others
 - **Takeaway:** Learning to love others makes us like Jesus
- **7 keys to love others:** 1 Cor 13:4 – 7
 - 1 Cor 13:4a – “Love suffers long...”
 - **Key #1: Practice patience**
 - Why are you making the same mistake again? (be patient)
 - Did you just bring mud in on my clean floor?
 - I’m loving you, why can’t you love me back?
 - Why haven’t you learned the truth yet?
 - Why hasn’t God answered my prayer yet?
 - Rom 12:12 – “Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer”
 - Hope, joy, patience & prayer in the face of trials & difficulties are the fruit of the Spirit’s presence in the life of the believer
 - Gal 5:22 – the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering...”
 - Patience only comes from God – it is a gift from God
 - Patience is withholding words or behavior that you might feel & showing kindness, instead
 - 1 Cor 13:4b – “Love...and is **kind**...”
 - Kind - Only time it’s used in Greek
 - “to be kind; to show oneself useful”
 - Jill – active kindness

- **Key #2: Practice kindness**
 - Not enough to think kind thoughts; must exemplify kind deeds
 - Lawn needs mowing?
 - Offer to pick up lunch for them, too?
 - Bringing flowers, food, fellowship
 - Taking time for someone – talk on the phone, take to the store, babysit
- Active kindness is showed in the things we do to others
- 1 Cor 13:4c – “...love does not envy...”
 - Envy = Gk, “to covet earnestly” – can be positive or negative (zealous for or envious of)
 - Same Gk word used for God – I am “jealous” over you with godly jealousy
 - We belong to God (jealous “of”)
 - Negative here, because jealous / envious of something we don’t have
 - Jealous “for”
- **Key #3: Practice contentment**
 - Phil 4:11 – “Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content.”
 - This means, you can be
 - Excited when a friend gets a promotion
 - New job, car, married, child
 - Heb 13:5 – “...be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”
 - We can be content because we don’t “need” things, we have Him
- 1 Cor 13:4d – “...love does not **parade itself**, is not **puffed up**”
 - Parade itself = Gk, “to brag”
 - Puffed up = Gk “to puff up” – lit, to inflate by blowing (like a bellows)
- **Key #4: Practice humility**
 - If you want others to feel love toward you, don’t act arrogant
 - Don’t be a “know it all”
 - Connected with not being envious
 - If you’re not envious of others, then it’s easier to practice humility
- Phil 2:3 – 5 – “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. (4) Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. (5) Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”
 - Look at others; focus on them & their needs; esteem them higher
This is the mind of Christ
- 1 Cor 13:5a – “Does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not **provoked**...”
 - Provoked = Gk, “easily provoke, stir” (from 2 words to sharpen & alongside)
 - Jill’s = don’t allow your “buttons” to be pushed

- **Key #5: Practice self-restraint when others push your buttons**
 - Don't allow others' comments or actions to get "under your skin"
 - Everything previously is how we treat others
 - This switches to how we react to other's treatment of us
 - 1 Cor 13:5b – "...thinks no evil."
 - **Key #6: Practice thinking well of others**
 - How often do we think evil of others? (*perceived slights / wrongs)
 - They passed me without saying "hi," they must be mad at me
 - They didn't smile, I must have offended them
 - They didn't answer my call or text, I must've done something
 - Phil 4:8 – "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true..."
 - Think on what is true
 - 1 Cor 13:7 – "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."
 - **Key #7: Practice seeing others as who they can become in Jesus**
 - Look past the here & now to the future
 - Look at others through Jesus' eyes
- **7 Keys to love others: 1 Cor 13**
 - 1. Practice patience
 - 2. Practice kindness
 - 3. Practice contentment
 - 4. Practice humility
 - 5. Practice self-restraint when others push your buttons
 - 6. Practice thinking well of others
 - 7. Practice seeing others as who they can become in Jesus
 - Changes how I treat others
 - Changes how I react when others treat me poorly
 - Changes how I think of others
 - Doesn't require me to "feel" love to be practice patience
 - Doesn't require me to "feel" love to actively exhibit / demonstrate kindness
 - Doesn't require me to "feel" love to practice contentment
 - Doesn't require me to "feel" love to practice humility
 - Doesn't require me to "feel" love to practice self-restraint when others push my buttons
 - Doesn't require me to "feel" love to think well of others
 - Doesn't require me to "feel" love to see them as who they could become