

Red Letter Part 2: Be Compassionate

(Hebrews 12:2-3 NASB) Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

(Luke 23:39-43 NIV) One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Then he said, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

Principle #2: Help others who are experiencing your same struggle.

(Isaiah 58:10 NIV) "If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday."

Four Basic Needs

- ✓ They need support.
- ✓ They need stability.
- ✓ They need significance.
- ✓ They need salvation.

Be Compassionate

(Colossians 3:12 NIV) "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion..."

1. Receive God's forgiveness and love.

(Luke 7:47 NIV) "Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven--for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."

(Psalm 103:2-4 NIV) "Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits--who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion."

2. Comfort them out of your own experiences.

(2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NIV) "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God."

3. Focus them on the hope of eternity.

(John 14:1-2 NIV) "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you."

(Titus 2:13 NIV) "...while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ."

(2 Timothy 4:18 NIV) "The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

(Revelation 21:3-4 NIV) "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."