

The Day God Wept



Paul & Bunty Collins

We look out at our world today and are horrified at the tremendous suffering we see happening everywhere. The TV news is full of reports of violence either by terrorist acts or individuals under the evil influence of drugs or of hatred towards others. Multitudes of innocent lives are being destroyed.

This same description of the world condition happened thousands of years ago and is described in the very first book of the Bible - Genesis.

“ *Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. The Lord saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.* Genesis 6:5-6. ”

The Wickedness of Mankind

Five characteristics filled the earth at that time...

- * *Violence*
- * *Corrupt ways*
- * *Evil thoughts*
- * *Evil inclinations of the heart*
- * *Wickedness*

The Father-Heart of God

But the effect on the Lord Himself is so important for us to note. God was...

- * *Grieved*
- * *His heart was filled with pain*

As we grieve over the condition of our world today, so God is grieving. His heart is breaking. He is a God of great love and in the creation of mankind his plan was magnificent. He desired to have many “sons” (Genesis 1:26-27). Imagine the grieving of his father-heart when his creation rebelled and chose to go their own way (Genesis 3). This

rebellion has continued down through the generations and is outworking in what we see today.



However, God's original plan is the relationship the Lord Jesus came to restore...

For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Hebrews 2:10 (NKJV).

As a loving Father he desires the very best for us. His glorious plan for each one of us is for us to grow to be just like his Son, sitting with him in the heavenly realms, enjoying fellowship with him and ruling and reigning over all his creation.

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 8:28-29 (NKJV).

The Compassion of God

When God was faced with this horrible situation of the suffering of mankind, He must have announced in heaven "we will send Heaven's best". Jesus, the beloved Son, came to reveal to us the heart of his Father...

“...Jesus answered...“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father” John 14:9. “The Son is the image of the invisible God...” Colossians 1:15.

Compassion is not just a feeling but is feeling put into action! When Jesus came to the earth and before he went to the Cross, he ministered to the suffering of the people.

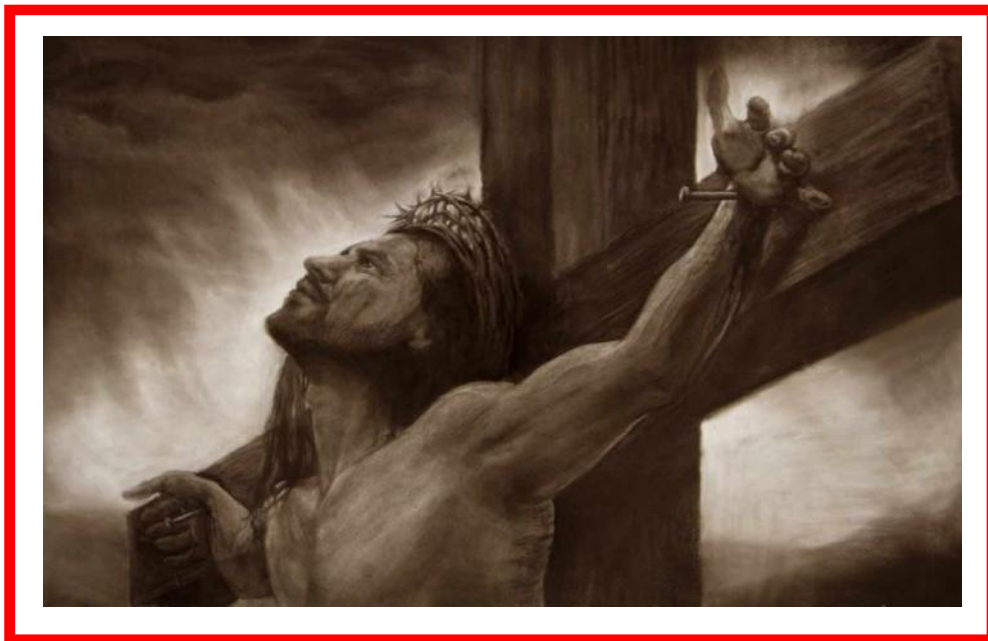
“When Jesus...saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.” Matthew 14:14

Jesus “wept” at the death of Lazarus and was “deeply moved in spirit and troubled”. His compassion then got into action and he raised him from the dead (John 11:32-45).

God is a God of great compassion. So great is his love for a fallen, rebellious human race, he sent his only Son to take all that sin with its deserved judgment upon himself.

“For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life” John 3:16 (AMPC).

In agony, Jesus sweat drops of blood when facing the horror of what he would need to do to bring us back to relationship to the Father (Luke 22:44).



The Cross was the greatest expression of God’s love and compassion for us.

The Great Commission

God's great compassion sees the suffering of every individual. After his resurrection, the Lord Jesus commissioned all his disciples to share the compassion of the Lord with everyone (Mark 16:15) and he outpoured his Holy Spirit on the believer, empowering us to fulfill it.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8”

The Early Church eagerly responded and reached the known world in their generation. They willingly faced the persecution that ensued and many laid down their lives. God's compassion is his love in action! The call to *preach* the gospel is not just to speak words but to put the words into practice - to *demonstrate* God's love and compassion in sending Jesus! As the apostle Paul declared...

“My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power” 1 Corinthians 2:4-5.

God's heart is weeping for this needy world. We are called to share and demonstrate, wherever he sends us, his great love and compassion. As we eagerly await the return of the Lord Jesus, he is eagerly looking for those who will give their whole lives for this great commission.

“And this gospel [good news] of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come” Matthew 24:14.

We must all make the decision of what we will do with the Gospel.

