

March 14, 2020

Compassionate Love

1 John 3:17, “If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?”

In this section of scripture, John has been contrasting the works of righteousness with the works of wickedness. In the verse before, v. 16, he states: This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. What would cause someone to give to someone else in need? It is the compassionate love of God. John says when we see. What do you see when you look around today? Your neighbor working in his yard? Your boss who is stressed out over a deadline? Your spouse who is worried about a financial need? We see people like that every day and yet do we really see them? Matt. 9:36, “When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” I believe that most of us see people all the time and yet don’t see them.

A few years back there was a song recorded by Brandon Heath called “Give Me Your Eyes.” Here is the chorus:

Give me Your eyes for just one second
Give me Your eyes so I can see,
Everything that I keep missing,
Give Your love for humanity.
Give me Your arms for the broken-hearted
The ones that are far beyond my reach.
Give me Your heart for the ones forgotten.
Give me Your eyes so I can see.

You see I believe it’s not that we don’t want to love people, it’s that we don’t see them the way God sees them; with full compassion.

Dear Lord, please open our eyes so that we can see people the way You do. Help us to look beyond the physical to the deep needs that others have and then have the compassion to act. Don’t let us be like the “religious” folks who passed the Samaritan on the road, seeing his need, and did nothing. Lord, please give us Your eyes so that we can truly see. In Jesus Name, Amen