



Faith in Compassion

Living in the Image of God
Module 03 Session 03

Dr. Goodluck Ofoegbu • Prof. Oby Ofoegbu
Banking Blessings Ministry
San Antonio, Texas
USA



Living in the Image of God

- God creates every person to represent him in interactions with others
- Be for others what God would be for them if he lived with us in human form
- He provides resources for people to perform the responsibilities and blesses those that do
- Program seeks to understand the meaning, resources, and human responsibilities and benefits of *Living in the Image of God*

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What We Will Learn

- Two examples from Christ ministry
- Relationship between faith and compassion
- Compassion of a centurion for his servant
- Christ compassion for a bereaved widow
- Illustrate seeking God to find path forward in responding to a call to compassion
- Matthew 8:5–13
- Luke 7:1–10 and 11–15

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Compassion & Faith of the Centurion

- Centurion with power of command over many
- Recognized one of his servants was sick
- Cared about the servant
- Had faith that Jesus will heal his servant
- Invited Jesus to heal his servant
- Centurion invited healing from Jesus on behalf of his servant

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The Centurion Prayer

- Two versions of the Centurion's prayer from the gospels according to Matthew and Luke
- Invited Jesus on behalf of his sick servant

Matthew 8:6 "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly."

Luke 7:3 The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant.

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Centurion Prayer cont'd

- Both versions convey the same message
- Centurion intercession on behalf of servant
- He recognized his servant was sick
- Cared about his servant
- Determined his best option was go to Jesus
- Invited Jesus on behalf of his servant
- Individual responsibility in call to compassion
- Recognize→care→commit→persevere

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Faith and Compassion

- Determined his best option for helping his servant was to go to Jesus
- Faith of healing from Jesus advanced his response in a call to compassion
- Take it to God in prayer to determine your path forward in a call to compassion
- The bible highlights his faith through his interactions with Jesus
- Matthew 8:8; Luke 7:6–7

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Faith of the Centurion

Matthew 8:8 The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed.

Luke 7:6 ...“Lord, don’t trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof.

Luke 7:7 That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed.

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Faith of the Centurion

Luke 7:9 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.”

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Jesus Heals the Servant

Matthew 8:13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that moment.

- In a call to compassion
- Faith led to his choice
- He went to Jesus (take it to God in prayer)
- He accomplished the objective

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Compassion for Bereaved Widow

- Jesus encountered funeral procession
- The deceased was the only son of a widow
- He had pity on the bereaved widow
- He restored the dead man to life
- He showed compassion (as a human person)
- Performed a miracle (as God)
- God may intervene with miracle to complete human responsibility in a call to compassion

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Luke 7 (NIV)

13 When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.”

14 Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!”

15 The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

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Compassion and Miracle

- As human
 - He recognized the need
 - Cared about the needy
 - Committed to doing something to alleviate the need
- As God, he performed a miracle
- Seek God while searching for path forward
- His options are unlimited
- Include intervening with miracle

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What We Learned

- Seek God in compassion
- His options are unlimited
- And include intervention with miracle
- Faith of the centurion
- Led him in compassion
- To seek God on behalf of his servant
- His servant was healed according to his faith
- In compassion for a bereaved widow
- Jesus restored her dead son to life

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Faith in Compassion

Living in the Image of God M03S03

If you recognize a need, care about the needy, and commit to doing what you can to alleviate the need; then you have received a task of God. He will guide you and would perform a miracle as necessary to complete the task. We discuss two examples: one regarding the compassion and faith of a Centurion that invited Jesus on behalf of his servant; and another regarding Jesus' compassion for a bereaved widow. The events show that God could intervene with miracle to complete human responsibility in a call to compassion.

We discuss two examples from Christ ministry to understand a relationship between compassion and faith. Compassion means a person recognizes the need of another and provides goods or service to alleviate the need. Faith in compassion means a person recognizes that a call to compassion is a task of God and that God will guide him or her to accomplish the objective. He will guide your human effort through and beyond your human capabilities.

In the first example, a Centurion had pity on his servant that was sick and recognized that Christ could heal his servant. He had compassion for his servant and faith that Christ will heal his servant. He invited Christ on behalf of his servant [Matthew 8:8]: “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed.” Christ healed the servant in response [Matthew 8:13]: “Then Jesus said to the centurion, ‘Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.’ And his servant was healed at that moment.” The Centurion’s compassion and faith led to his intercession and resulted in healing for his servant.

In the second example, Jesus encountered the funeral procession for the only son of a widow. He had compassion on the widow, stopped the funeral procession, and restored the dead son back to life. As human, he had compassion for the bereaved widow: “When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, ‘Don’t cry’” [Luke 7:13]. As God, he performed a miracle to restore her dead son [Luke 7:14–15]: “...He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, get up!’ The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.”

The examples illustrate that God can perform a miracle to complete human responsibility in a call to compassion. Therefore, in responding to a call to compassion, focus on your human effort while having faith of God guiding you through and beyond the limits of your human capabilities.

Compassion and Faith of the Centurion

The Centurion, battalion commander in the Roman army that ruled Israel during the time of Jesus, was powerful and had several servants. He recognized that one of his servants was seriously sick and needed help. He cared about the servant and wanted to help him. He believed that Jesus could heal his servant and invited Jesus on behalf of his servant.

The gospel according to Matthew reports that the Centurion went to Jesus by himself: “‘Lord,’ he said, ‘my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly’” [Matthew 8:6]. In contrast, the gospel according to Luke indicates the Centurion sent a delegation of Jewish elders to Jesus: “The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant” [Luke 7:3]. Both versions of the gospel provide the basic fact that the

Centurion invited Jesus on behalf of his servant—an example for intercession motivated by compassion.

He recognized his servant was sick, cared about his servant, determined his best option was to go to Jesus, and invited Jesus to heal his servant. That is: he recognized the need, cared about the needy, committed to doing what he could, and persevered through to alleviate the need. He accomplished the final step through prayer by inviting Jesus to heal his servant.

Motivated by Compassion and Encouraged by Faith

The Centurion determined that his best option for helping his servant was to go to Jesus. Faith of healing from Jesus strengthened his commitment to do something to alleviate the suffering of his servant. He was motivated by compassion and encouraged by faith to intercede on behalf of his servant. His compassion and faith resulted in healing for his servant: “When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, ‘I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel!’” [Luke 7:9].

The compassion and faith of the Centurion provide a reminder to take it to God in prayer while seeking a path forward in a call to compassion. You have been assigned a task of God when you recognize a need, care about the needy, and commit to doing what you can to alleviate the need. Persevere in seeking a path forward and be encouraged that God will guide you and could perform a miracle as he considers necessary to complete the task. That is a message from the compassion and faith of the Centurion.

Compassion for Bereaved Widow

Jesus encountered a funeral procession for the only son of a widow. He had pity on the bereaved widow and restored her dead son to life. As human, he had compassion for the bereaved widow: “When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, ‘Don’t cry!’” [Luke 7:13]. As God, he performed a miracle to restore her dead son [Luke 7:14–15]: “...He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, get up!’ The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.”

As human: Jesus recognized a need, cared about the needy, and committed to doing something to alleviate the need. As God, he performed a miracle by restoring life to the dead son to alleviate the widow’s suffering. The event reminds us to seek God while searching for a path forward in a call to compassion. His options are unlimited and include intervening with miracle. That is, God may intervene with miracle to complete human responsibility in a call to compassion.

Summary of What We Learned

If you recognize a need, care about the needy, and commit to doing what you can to alleviate the need; then you have received a task of God. He will guide you and could perform a miracle as necessary to complete the task.

We discussed two examples: one regarding the compassion and faith of a Centurion that invited Jesus on behalf of his servant; and another regarding Jesus’ compassion for a bereaved widow. The events show that God could intervene with miracle to complete human responsibility in a call to compassion.