

Alone But Not Alone #6

God's Handprint of Compassion

Word

Scripture Reference

1 Kings 18:40–19:8

Discussion Questions

1. Do you associate God more with justice or compassion? Why is it crucial to have a correct understanding of God's character, and why is understanding His compassion important for us today?
2. After God showed Himself as the one true almighty God, the false prophets were all captured and put to death (v. 18:40). This act illustrates God's justice and holiness which are consistent with His character. Many of us think of God as a God who is vengeful and our relationship has evolved based on fear and trembling. What is wrong with this perspective? How do you see this truth in the lives of people today? How does it affect one's behavior and relationship with God?
3. God's unconditional love for His chosen people has never wavered even in disobedience. How is this truth seen in 1 Kings 18:41-45? How did God deal with the people who have disobeyed Him?
4. The first evidence of God's handprint of compassion is in His forgiving restoration. God is a God of justice yet His compassion compels Him to restore His people. What is the difference between forgiveness and restoration? Why did it take seven attempts before the people saw God restore the rain? What does this tell us about how God restores His people?
5. Ahab tells his wife Jezebel all that Elijah had done and how the false prophets were executed. This news made Jezebel very angry, and she vowed to kill Elijah in 24 hours. How is God's handprint of compassion seen in 1 Kings 18:46-19:1-3? Have you ever received a

"Jezebel call" wherein a phone call or text shattered your world? How did Elijah respond, and what was his prayer in verse 19:4? Was there an instance in your life when you felt so discouraged, or a time when you may have questioned why God allowed something to happen in your life? How did God respond to Elijah? The second evidence of God's handprint of compassion is in His patience. Psalm 86:15 tells us that God is slow to anger. How does this verse correct your misconception on God's character in question #2?

6. God understood what Elijah was going through. In the gentleness of who God is, He prepared a special meal for His prophet (v. 19:7). How does this reflect the love and care of God for His servant? Have you had an experience where God encouraged you during a moment of discouragement? The third evidence of God's handprint of compassion is His gentleness. In 1 Kings 19:8, Elijah journeys non-stop to Mt. Sinai. There he will have an amazing encounter with God which will restore him not only physically and emotionally, but also spiritually. A God of compassion shows us that when we turn to Him, He does not add burden, but instead He relieves it.

Walk

Who do you turn to during times of difficulties and discouragements in your life? God's arms are always wide open when you run to Him. He is neither punitive nor vengeful in nature. Rather, He is compassionate, loving, and gentle. When you run to Him, He will not add burden or sorrow. Instead, He will lovingly comfort you. When was the last time you turned to the Lord for comfort? He is always waiting for people to run to Him and experience His compassion daily.

Worship & Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for reminding us that you are the God of compassion and that your very nature is love. Correct us during times when we run away from you thinking that you are angry and that you hate us because of our sins. Allow us to focus on the cross and remind us that your love for us is constant and that it does not depend on our abilities but it is based on the finished work of Jesus on the cross. Lord, we want to experience your compassion and your gentleness daily in our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.