

The God Who Is Compassionate & Gracious — Easter Continued #7
Church by the Sea ~ Madeira Beach, FL
May 12, 2024 Dr. Jeffry Iskra

What Is God Really Like?

Exodus 34:5-6 Then the LORD came down in a cloud and stood there with him, and he called out his own name, Yahweh. ⁶ The LORD passed in front of Moses, calling out,

“Yahweh! The LORD is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth...”

Compassionate = mercy, womb; a tender and fierce passion

- This word describes a parent’s FEELINGS

Gracious = to bend down in kindness to an inferior, to bestow favor

- This word describes a parent’s ACTIONS

Luke 15:11-12 To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: A man had two sons. ¹² The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

Vs. 13-16 A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. ¹⁴ About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. ¹⁵ He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

Vs. 17-19 When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am

dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, ¹⁹ and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant." ' "

Vs. 20-24 "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. ²¹ His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.'

²² "But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. ²³ And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began.

1. God is our true compassionate FATHER
2. Our compassionate father DEEPLY FEELS love for us
3. Our father will act to help us, even if he must SACRIFICE
4. Loving others is characteristic of God... and it's a characteristic of GOD'S PEOPLE

Who in your life does not know that God is compassionate & gracious?

- An Enemy? Release them, forgive them & pray for them
- Part of your daily life? (family, neighbor, office, restaurant)
- Frustrates you? Annoys you? Disrupts you? Upsets you?

Everyday Is an Opportunity To Show People That God Feels Compassion
for Them, Is Gracious & Wants To Help!