

*“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” Matthew 9:36 NIV*

One of the most difficult places to be is when we either defeated or discouraged with no place to go. After 27 years of ministry I’ve walked through enough situations with others to know how it either “beats down” or puts someone in a bit of depression. Sometimes we can try words, but they ring hollow or untrue. In fact in some situations it is so hard to remain positive for another, that we are dragged down to.

Early on in Jesus ministry, he was really quite popular. He could heal the sick, even cast out demons, which seemed to be a huge source of trouble and anxiety for the folk who were close to the demon possessed.

What made things worse was that the vast majority of “everyday” people couldn’t expect much help and comfort from the religious establishment of that day and age. Their main concern was who fulfilled the rules and regulations and who did not. Those who were in power in the religious establishment worried more about their “status” rather than the people who needed them.

So who could they turn to? Where could they go? There really weren’t too many alternatives for them. So if you could imagine yourself as an “common person” in that day and age, most likely you would probably be depressed and discouraged with no place to go.

What made Jesus unique over others who might even be able to perform “miracles” in that day and age, was his “compassion” on them. The Greek word literally means “in the deepest parts of his being.

In other places in scripture when Jesus is faced with similar large and desperate crowds, whether he is rested, or hasn’t had the best day, he never turns them away.

One of my favorite verse of scripture is the second half of John 6:37 where Jesus says “.. and whoever comes to me I will never drive away”(NIV).

Obviously some situations need more help, therapy and counseling especially if we are depressed.

But we cannot do worse by coming to our Lord and pouring out our soul to him.

*He says “Come to me all you that are heavy weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yolk upon you and learn of me , for I am humble and gentle of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. My yoke is easy and my burn is light” Matthew 11:28-30 NIV*

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