

07. Jesus' Compassion



Mark 1:41-45

Liberating the Outsider and
welcoming him into the community

Deeply moved with compassion (σπλαγχνισθεὶς); [anger? ὀργισθεὶς], Jesus stretched out his hand and held him, and said to him, “Of course I want to. Be made clean!” Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.

‘Jesus saw the crowd; and he had **compassion** (ἐσπλαγγνίσθη) for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things’ (Mark 6:34).

‘When there was again a great crowd without anything to eat, he called his disciples and said to them, “I have **compassion** (σπλαγχνίζομαι) for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. If I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way – and some of them have come from a great distance” (Mark 8:1-3).

‘When the Lord saw the widow, he had **compassion** (ἐσπλαγγνίσθη) for her and said to her, “Do not weep.” Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, rise!” (Luke 7:13-14).

Mark 10:46-52

They come to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me (ἐλέησόν με)!”

Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me (ἐλέησόν με)!”

Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they call the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.”

So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.

Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?”

The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.”

Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well (‘saved you’).”

Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Luke 10:25-28

‘A lawyer stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he said, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’

Jesus said to him, ‘What is written in the law? What do you read there?’

He answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.’

And Jesus said to him, ‘You have given the right answer; go on doing this and you will live.’

Luke 10:29

Wanting to justify himself. the lawyer asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?”

1- A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead.

2- Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

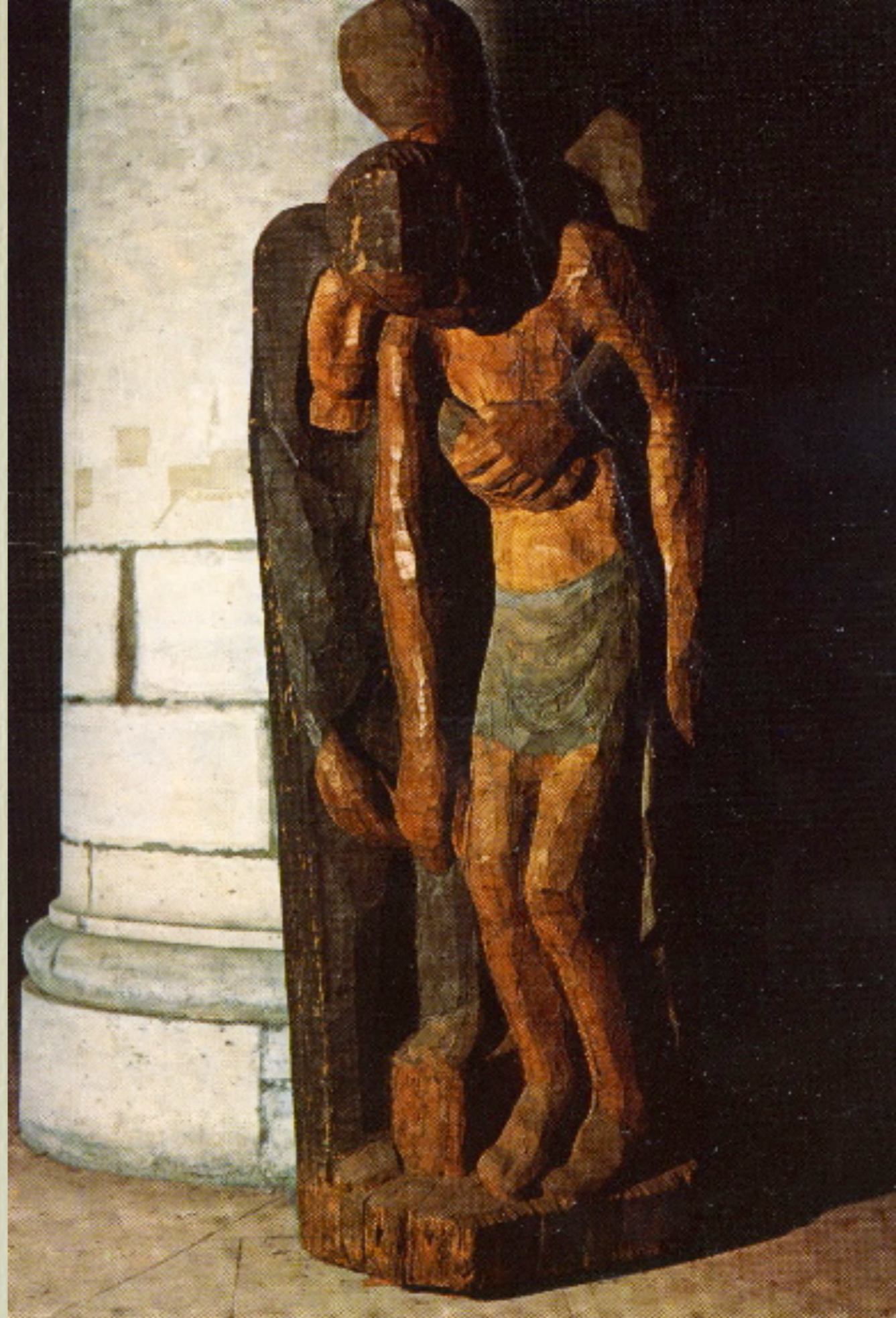
3- So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

3+ But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with compassion (ἐσπλαγγνίσθη). He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them.

2+ Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

1+ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.'

Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise".



Dubos

The two sons Luke 15:11-32

‘All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him.

And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable.

The younger son

1. leaves his father and home
2. loses everything
3. sin takes him to the bottom

change of mind

3. Father comes out to his son filled with compassion

(ἐσπλαγγνίσθη)

2. receives everything

1. ‘They began to celebrate’

The elder son

1. Comes in from the fields
2. hears of celebration and is angry

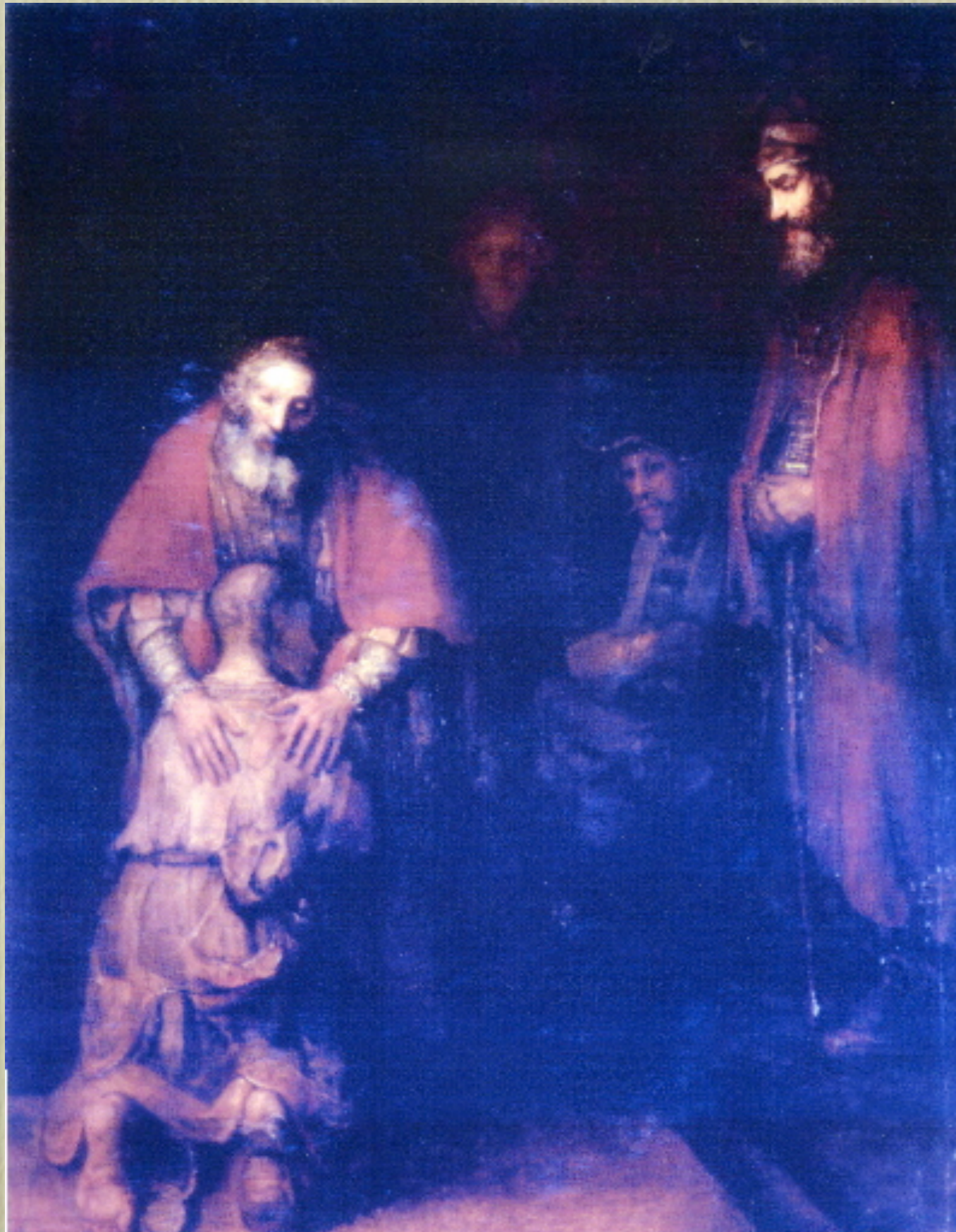
3. Father comes out to his son

stubborn refusal

3. Father tells him of his love

2. father explains the celebration

1. ??????



‘While he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with **compassion**; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.’

Latin ‘**miser**icordia’ = to press to one’s **heart** a person who is experiencing **miser**y.

Rembrandt

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

‘I may have all the eloquence of human beings and of angels, but if I speak without love, I am simply a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

I may have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and know everything.

I may have such faith as to remove mountains, but if I do not have love, I am nothing.

I may give away all my possessions, and even hand over my body to be burnt, but if I do not have love, it will do me no good whatever.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love never stops caring.

Love acts always in a kind way.

Love does not act out of jealousy or envy.

Love does not boast; or behave arrogantly.

Love does not behave indecently or insist on its own way.

Love does not give way to irritation;

or brood over wrongs.

Love takes no pleasure in wrongdoing,

but rejoices in the truth.

Love has space enough to hold and to bear

everything and everyone

love believes all things, hopes all things, and endures whatever comes

Love does not come to an end.'

Matthew 11:28-29.



‘Come to me,
all you that are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you,
and learn from me;
for I am gentle
and humble in heart,
and you will find rest
for your souls.’

We choose to believe and so to hope,
trusting because of the dying and rising of Jesus.

Our merciful actions encourage others to believe
and to hope.

‘Be merciful (οἰκτιρόμονες ; Matthew ‘perfect’),
just as your Father is merciful’ (οἰκτιρόμων, Luke 6:36).

‘Blessed are they who show mercy’ (ἐλεήμονες, Matthew 5:7).

‘Be imitators of God, as beloved children,
and live in love, as Christ loved us
and gave himself up for us’ (Ephesians 5:1-2).

‘Be kind to one another, tenderhearted,
forgiving one another,
as God in Christ has forgiven you’ (Ephesians 4:32).

‘Bear with one another
and, if anyone has a complaint against another,
forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you,
so you also must forgive’ (Colossians 3:13).