

*Expressions
of Good
Pt. 3*

*Tov
Is
Expressed In
Empathy and
Compassion.*

Jesus Began His Ministry With A Concern For The Vulnerable And Wounded.

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*

Why That Text, That Day, For That Reader?

Isaiah's Prediction And Jesus' Mission Connected.

The Heart Of Jesus' Mission Was And Is
The Wounded, The Neglected, The Ignored,
The Abused, The Lost, And The Violated.
He Sees Them With The Eyes Of God.

It Was A Tov Moment, A God Thing!

That Concern Is Also Expressed In His Invitation To The Weary And Burdened.

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
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. For my yoke is easy
and my burden is light."*

There Are Two Words That Express Jesus' Heart For People.

- Empathy: “the ability to feel what someone else feels, to exit our own feelings and enter the experience of others. Thus, empathy is the ability to see the world through others’ pain.”
- Compassion: “the outworking of empathy. It is empathy incarnated. It is when the pain of another moves one to try to alleviate that pain.

It Is The Essence Of Fulfilling
The Law Of Christ.

Galatians 6:2 (NIV)

*Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you
will fulfill the law of Christ.*

*His Only Relative Was
Killed in the El Paso
Massacre. He Has
Invited the City to Her
Funeral.*

Antonio Basco said he
would welcome anyone at
his wife,
Margie Reckard's,
funeral service this week.





"We were gonna live together and die together that was our plan."
— Antonio Basco

Mark 2:23-28 (NIV)

One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?" He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need?"

In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions."

*Then he said to them,
"The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."*

It Was Against The Law To
Work On The Sabbath. Numbers 15:32-26,
Records That A Man Was Stoned For
Gathering Wood On The Sabbath.
The Pharisees Are Not Just Being Nit-picky.

Jesus Justifies What His Disciples Did.

- First, *“The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.”* Jesus would not approve of a legalistic approach to the Sabbath, in which no work could ever be done, regardless of the circumstances. The Sabbath was created to help people, not harm them.
- Second, the story highlights the circumstances of David and Jesus. David had already been anointed King, though not yet coronated. Jesus claimed to be a king too, *“Lord even of the Sabbath.”*

Matthew 12:1-8 (NIV)

At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath." He answered, "Haven't you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry?"

He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread--which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. Or haven't you read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple desecrate the day and yet are innocent? I tell you that one greater than the temple is here. If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent. For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

Jesus Is Trying To Get The Pharisees To Recognize Three Truths.

- In Some Cases, The Sabbath Law May Be Broken, Without Guilt.
- That The Son Of Man Is Lord Of The Sabbath, And Thus, Has The Authority To Determine Such Cases.
 - Jesus Is Even Greater Than The Temple.
- All Three Indicate That Jesus Values “*Mercy Over Sacrifice*” And Uses His Authority To Bless, Not Harm.

So, In Our World, Who Are The *“Weary And Heavy Burdened?”*

- Who Are Our Poor, Blind, Captives, and Oppressed?
- Who needs us to feel what they feel, to exit our own feelings and enter their experience? Who needs us to see the world through their pain?
- Who needs us to incarnate our feelings of empathy and do something to lighten their load and show them the mercy of God?

A Church, A People, Of Goodness, (Tov)

- Must exude empathy and compassion.
- Must make it a priority to enter the struggles of others and see the world through their pain.
- Must listen more than we talk, when dealing with those who are weary and burdened.
- Must commit to seeking Biblical Justice, not what some call “Social Justice.” That is an academic construct that means way more than most people know.
- Biblical Justice and Righteousness are ideals that are near to the heart of God and affirmed throughout scripture.

This Week's Assignment:

Identify, get to know, and lighten the burden of someone you see is carrying too big a load.