

# Learning Compassion And Mercy

by Randy Krahn

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*This sermon emphasizes the importance of continuous growth and learning in faith, highlighting the need for compassion, mercy, and the fear of the Lord. It delves into the consequences of pride, covetousness, and the importance of seeking God's kingdom first. The speaker shares personal experiences and biblical insights on unity, division, and the challenges faced in relationships and spiritual growth.*

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 8:8, Romans 7:18, Matthew 10:34, Proverbs 9:10, Jeremiah 8:10, Job 1:21, Psalm 127:1, Ecclesiastes 3:1, John 6:37

**Topics:** "Spiritual Growth", "Compassion and Unity"

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## Description

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## Transcript

Lord, grateful for today. It's the end of another chapter, the beginning of a new one, that you would be glorified, you would help us to overcome, and that we would press on in Jesus' name. Amen.

You know, sometimes we read in the Bible and we get to our Bible reading and say, well, I'm going to read chapter 10 today. But chapter 10 and chapter 11, they flow together. But man put the numbers there because it seemed good to them to separate things.

And just like December 31st and January 1st, it seems to be a separation between one year and another. But it's a continuous flow in our life from one place to another, one period of time into another. I remember when I was young in the Lord and I spent hours reading scripture, gaining knowledge.

And I had quite a few number of brothers come to me and say, you know what, you're really strong in your preaching. And I said, thank you. But what they were trying to say is you're very proud.

You have a lot of knowledge, but you're lacking in love and compassion. And I had this one guy, I could discern some things in his life. I could see that he was a compromiser.

The Lord showed me some things, but he still spoke the word of the Lord to me. And he said, you know what, this year is going to be something new for you this year. He came near the end of the year in, I

believe it was in 2000.

And he said, this year, the Lord is going to teach you compassion. He's going to tell you, go learn what this means. I desire mercy.

I desire compassion. And it began to go through a period of contention in our fellowship. And I was co-leading with a brother, and the brother was preaching strong and I was preaching strong.

And we came to a place where we realized that we weren't leaving people with hope. We weren't leaving people with answers. We were only giving them one part of the gospel, the repentance gospel, but not giving them the antidote, the cure on how to be saved, how to turn from it, how to overcome it.

It's because we didn't have light on it. We only could preach with the light that we had. And it brought such contention between us that one day we had Friday night Bible studies.

I was in Edmonton and I was texting this brother, asking him if he was going to be leading the Friday night Bible study while I was awake, because I wasn't going to make it back in time. And he didn't respond to me. He didn't respond.

And so I thought, well, I got to get back. And I got back, it would be 11 at night. My wife said nobody showed up.

Not one person came. We were having, you know, 20, 30 young people coming every Friday night to hear the message. I wondered what things would be.

And Sunday came and went and only my cousin Darren showed up. Everybody was gone. And I come to find out that the brother took all the people and he took them to his house.

He started the church and it was just me and one other brother left, my cousin. And I went through that year, a lot of things. And I learned about compassion and mercy.

I learned what it was like to walk alone. I learned what it was like not to go into battle with someone, you know, shoulder to shoulder where one can chase a thousand into ten thousand. And I understand now that it was the Lord's dealings in my life to teach me something more than just knowledge.

Knowledge has to work itself into character. And that only happens through going through things and sometimes hard things. I want to read a passage in Matthew 10 that connects with what I was just sharing.

I don't really know what I was going to share this morning, but a few thoughts. Matthew 10, 34, do you not think that I came to bring peace on earth? I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. And we know the sword is the word of God.

The sword of the spirit is the word of God. And the word of God divides between bone and marrow, between truth and lies, between a brother and an imposter, a fake brethren. The word of God divides between who's spiritual, who's not, and who loves God and who doesn't.

And sometimes we think, well, you know, he's the prince of peace. He came to bring peace on earth. But he says, I tell you, I didn't come to bring peace on earth, but I came to bring division.

For I have come to set a man against his father. Well, that sounds contrary. It says how good and how pleasant it is when brothers can dwell together in unity.

And our brother shared about contention. Contention in a body is not good. But how can you unite something that is not united? And many times what we're trying to do is trying to build something like a tower into heaven.

The only way you can unite that is if you make every brick exactly the same. But when they built an altar, he said, see to it that no man puts his tools on it. And then they just laid 12 stones there as an altar unto the Lord.

And the Lord says that he is going to build his church and he is going to knit us together and make us into a house, a spiritual house. But many times what happens is we're trying to build something, make a name for ourselves. And we go brick to brick and we use slime for mortar, asphalt for mortar.

And we start to do something great for God, only for God to shut it down and wonder what's going on and being disillusioned to set a man against his father. When you have your father and he's carnal and he confesses Christ, he's living for himself. He's living for money.

He's living for pleasures. He's living for his dreams. He's not living for the Lord.

And then when you get together in fellowship, you can't find fellowship. You can't get a connection. Why? Because the Holy Spirit will not allow you to have a connection in the flesh.

There's a great chasm there. And it's the word of God that causes that chasm to come. And as much as it depends on you, you can be at peace with all men.

But as we shared yesterday, David, wisdom from above is first pure. And then it's peaceful, gentle, willing to you. But does it pass the sword? Does it pass the purity test? And if it passes the purity test, then you can compromise in some things.

But if it does not pass the purity test, there's no compromise. There'll be contention. That's the other side of the contention coin.

Because Jesus said there would be contention. Because there's no fellowship. That's right.

I didn't come to bring peace, but division, a sword, the word. Just set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's enemies will be those of his own household.

So we want to unite the family. We want to get together, even during the holidays. Everybody wants to get together.

And there's no peace because there's no unity. Can't be unity because there's no peace. Because the Prince of Peace has not brought us together and united us.

You know, there was a time Aline brought a brother from Romaine. Brought his help. Never met him before.

Didn't speak English. When the guy came into my house, I saw the guy. We immediately began to weep exactly at the same time.

We could not speak the same language. And we hugged one another and we wept together. And I had more love for this guy that I'd never seen in my entire life than I had for anybody in the church.

And he looked deep into my eyes and I looked deep into his and I realized this is a broken man who's come to know his God. The language barrier knit us together. Just like when they all spoke with tongues, they were united.

Yet no one understood what they were saying. But when everyone spoke the same language and they were saying let's get together, we're going to get a wonderful Sunday school program. We're going to get a good youth group going.

We're going to get the children's program happening. We're going to get the young adults going. You know, we're going to get, you know, do some missions work.

We're going to get the programs happening. We're going to bring brick to brick. Everybody's going to be united.

Nothing can stop us. We're going to build a mega church. Do something great for God.

You might build something great for God and the Spirit of God might never be in there. The Lord knows. And just because you have natural relatives, if you treat natural relatives more important than you do a brother or sister in Christ, then you have a problem.

There was a time when Jesus was preaching. The crowds were there. And some brothers were able to sneak through because his family couldn't get through.

His mother was there and his brothers were there. His natural family. And they said, listen, man, Jesus, your mom and your brothers are here.

They want to see you. They want to talk to you. I think most evangelists would say, hey, guys, come on, make way.

My mom and my brothers are here. We'll bring it up to the front here. And I want to introduce them to you.

They're a wonderful family. You know, my mom did a fantastic job. You know her story.

You know, and my brother's here. You know, you know, the Lord's working with them and there's a plan for their life. And, you know, let me introduce them to you.

You saw what he said. He said, who is my mother and sister and brother? It's not my natural family, guys. It's those who hear God's word and keep it.

That is who my mother and sister and brother are. We need to get light on these things. Whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of it.

And whoever does not take up his cross and come after me is not worthy of it. He who finds his life will lose it. And he who loses his life for my sake will find it.

I had wonderful fellowship with this brother. We've seen the power of God. We've seen the evil spirits come out, people writhing like snakes on the ground.

We've seen people get set free. And then there was a prophetic word that came. This brother had a gift.

He could look at people, read their mail, and the secrets of men's hearts would be revealed and people would fall on the ground and repent. But God doesn't say that the gifts commend us to God. It's the fruit that commends us to God.

He says my father is glorified when you bear much fruit and your fruit remains. Not that you can prophesy with 100% accuracy or that you can preach to the winds and men cry out what shall we do. That's not what the standard is or the demons obey you.

It says don't rejoice the demons obey you, that your name is written in heaven. We were becoming proud. But I was going to it in the same way.

We had a furnace once that developed a gas leak in the attic and all of a sudden the CO detectors were going and we didn't know what was going on. And we had a slight headache. And so I thought, well, maybe I'll call the non-emergency line and see if we can get some feedback on what we should do.

Well, the sirens were coming, the fire trucks, they were coming. I don't know how many we had coming. And they came in with suits and their sniffers and they detected there was a leak.

Maybe something wasn't right. We're a little bit foggy, but we didn't know that it was a carbon monoxide leak. That's what pride is.

You can't detect it. You can feel like things are not right in your life, but pride is there. And you know what? When pride is in your life, God is against you.

God is opposed to you. And so we need to repent when we start to say things, you know, and I'm guilty of it. We get frustrated sometimes and we start to make discernments and we start speaking.

The next thing I realized what we're doing is we're becoming judges. Rather than praying for people, we're just able to diagnose. You got to be careful.

This one brother took to church. Within a year, the church had disintegrated. The brother had kicked them all out because he was not perfected in love and he didn't have patience.

Love is patient. And you have the fellowship and the gathering of people. Everybody's growing at different speeds and different places.

And in order to minister in a family, you know, he had only some very small children. He didn't know how to deal with some teenage rebels who were sitting in the crowd. It takes time to learn how to raise a family in a godly way.

It's easy when you have a small boy. You can just give him a spanking and tell him to repent. But when you have a teenager and they stand up nose to nose with you and they could put you on the ground, that's another thing.

We need wisdom from God to know how to lead in a godly way according to the scriptures, according to the spirit. That's why it's important when he says if you want to be an elder, to be a deacon, you know, to be a bishop, right, or a pastor, these are good things. But it says let someone be the husband of one wife having raised faithful children.

You have some experience on dealing with your own family. And you know what? You know how to manage your household. Your children are not unruly.

They listen to you. Not all the time, but you're going to continue to stick with it until, you know, they come under your authority. Otherwise, they have to go.

If the children don't come under the authority of the head of the house, there's a point in time where they'll just eventually leave. You don't want them to leave, but the prodigal left because we have to do things according to his order. We go up to the creek sometimes and they got this damnable doctrine there, this once saved, always saved thing.

But you know what? If they talk back to their cabin leader or someone in the office, they'll punt them right down the road as far as they can kick them. That's how quick they'll be off the property. But the whole this damnable doctrine can never be kicked out of heaven.

But off the property, 100%. Just try me and see where you end up. Walking for about 20 kilometers down the road or we'll just drive you for a night back to town.

We have all these doctrines in our head that we believe, but yet we don't live by them. You say, well, God loves us and nothing can change that. It's unconditional.

Well, you know what? If you're a rebel and he's got 10 wonderful children that are living with him in his house and you're a rebel, will he risk corrupting the other 10 because he loves you so much? Maybe you got to go and lick the pavement on Hastings for a while until you're ready to come back. And you know what? It's actually his kindness. Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I keep his word.

It's good that I was afflicted. Can you actually say that? Go through very hard, hard things and actually say, it's good that I was afflicted. We heard Dan share about it.

When you get an exhortation, it's not easy. First response is to put a wall up. And not every exhortation is from the Lord, but you know what? If the Lord allows the devil to give you a false accusation, we should be able to receive it and be okay and say, you know what, Lord? You know my heart.

And if I don't know something, show it to me. You know, when that told me I need to go learn compassion, I need to go learn mercy, all I did is look at him and say, you know what? You got some things you need to learn yourself. But I left it.

You know what? The next year was a very, very hard year. And it was very, very necessary. God takes us through things to break us.

So we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead. We can become a Pharisee if we don't learn compassion. We'll be the ones to throw the stones first at those who are practicing sin.

But Jesus, he loved righteousness and hated lawlessness, but he didn't throw the stone. He was the only one who could. Matthew 12, not going to get into the full teaching, but just a specific verse here, verse 25.

But Jesus, knowing these Pharisees' thoughts, thinking that he was casting out demons by Beelzebub, said to them, every kingdom divided against itself is brought to destruction. And every city or every house divided against itself will not stand. Jesus said, you guys have brought corruption into my house.

This house is supposed to be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves, speaking of the Pharisees. And he went in there and he made a cord of three-strand whip and he turned over the tables and he drove out the money changers. There the division came in the house.

First division comes so that peace can come. You got to clear out the unclean so that the house can be filled with life, with purity. And I know a lot of relationships, a lot, where people have a wise idea they want to get married.

They have a desire to get married. Happened some of it in my own family. It's happened in people in the fellowship.

And the Lord told them, the Holy Spirit showed them, but they don't want to listen to counsel. And then what happens is you're sewing a wineskin together to become one. An unshrunk piece with a shrunk piece.

And somehow you're wanting to pour new wine into it, hoping that it's going to work. It can't work. How do you know, man, whether you're going to save your wife? Or how do you know, woman, if you're going to be able to convert your husband? We don't know.

Just because your head is packed with truth, it doesn't mean you're born again. I know people who will read their Bible four or five hours a day and they're seeking to earn their righteousness, somehow trying to please God by their actions. That doesn't commend us to God.

Just like a runner or a ball player doing tremendous training, getting himself like a fine-tuned instrument or a race car, totally, completely tuned. What is that to God? He'll blow it up in a second. He'll blow the engine.

The pistons will come right through. Right? You'll just blow out a knee. All that training is useless.

He's able in one second to cause it to come to an end. All of our work and all of our striving. What does he say? But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness.

Get the order right and have a desire to know God. Don't try to please him by trying to earn his respect or try to get him to love you more by doing stuff. Just keep it simple.

You know, I like to say like just childlike faith. It's not hard. It's kind of like breathing.

In the last minute, how many breaths did you take? I don't know if I think about it. No. Now all of a sudden I'm thinking about it.

Oh yeah, I just took one. That is how it is in the Christian walk and walking with the Lord. You're just in step with him.

But if you stop breathing, that's it. That's what the Spirit is. The Spirit gives life.

It's the pneuma. It's the breath. The flesh profits nothing.

And if you're trying to connect flesh and spirit, then you'll be at war. And a house divided, you'll be at war. You say, well, I want to get together with my ex-wife.

I really want to. Well, if she doesn't get a conversion experience, your life will be hell. Like brother shared, you'll be dwelling with a contentious woman.

Or if the woman decides she wants her husband back, but he's still out doing who knows what all, your life will be miserable. It says remain single or be reconciled. But we believe in covenant.

God is covenant keeping. We believe in covenant. Jeremiah 8. We have a Laodicean culture here.

And we can all get caught up in it. And I'm not an exception. Jeremiah 8 verse 8. How can you say we are wise? That the law of the Lord is with us.

Look at the false pen of the scribe. Certainly works falsehood. The wise men are ashamed.

They are dismayed. They are taken. Behold, they have rejected the word of the Lord.

So what wisdom do they have? We were sharing yesterday, David and I, we had a little study about the seven spirits of God. They say, well, there's only six written there, but the Holy Spirit is a given. The spirit of wisdom, the spirit of counsel, the spirit of knowledge, the spirit of boldness, which is might, the spirit of the fear of the Lord, probably another one.

His delight was in the fear of the Lord. If you go and learn what this means, fear God. If you fear God, you don't have to fear man.

That's going to save you from a lot of compromise in your life. If you fear God, you're not going to try to please your wife. And you'll fail the purpose of God in your life.

When I say please your wife, Abram tried to please his wife one time, because God had promised him a son. And his wife came and said, well, you know what? I think I got a way figured out. Why don't we take Hagar, the woman, and you marry her, and you take her also for a wife.

Have a son by her. I'll raise the child. Damn.

Seemed a fantastic idea to Abram. He heeded the voice of his wife. He didn't ask God.

That's where we get into trouble. Wisdom from above is first pure. Then it's peaceable.

He should have said, woman, you speak like one of the foolish woman speaks. You know anybody has said that? Job said it. Because God had blessed him immensely, yet in one day he lost everything except he had his wife.

And his wife said, why you worship a God? Look at it. Look at you, all the sores on your body. Look at it.

You've lost all your children. You've lost all your possessions. Curse God and die.

He said, listen, the Lord gives and the Lord takes away. You speak as one of the foolish women speak. No.

I'm going to bless God. The Lord gives and the Lord takes away. Are we going to serve God because times are good? Things are going good.

And when things get rough, we're going to drag our lip on the ground and we're going to say, where is God? No, we're going to give him thanks in the hard times because you know what? Perseverance produces character. Character, hope, and hope doesn't disappoint. Hope is greater than faith.

Faith, hope, and love, these three. When you come into hope, it's like an anchor for your soul. It's greater than faith.

We hope for what we do not see. We're expecting it. Since Abraham hoped for a city which had foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

And coming to that, that agape love, the God kind of love, the pure kind of love, that God could shape our character and become like that. He's able. But we can say we have wisdom.

We can say we have knowledge. We can say that we give people counsel. But if you don't have the fear of the Lord, well, what wisdom do you have? You don't have wisdom.

I see some people and I got caught up with it. I said, oh man, that guy's successful in business. I want to go and rub shoulders with that fellow and see if I can just learn some of his tools, some of his tricks, you know, because he's wise.

And then I went and I, you know, made some compromises. I built some homes for that fellow and I started rubbing shoulders with him. Well, he was already divorced once.

He was on a second rocky marriage. And then I began to mature spiritually and I went to the Blue Ridge pub there where we went skating last week. And I said, I want to talk to you about giving your life completely to Jesus, because he sat in the same church I did.

We were living like dogs. And he says, you know, I really commend you on your change, your life change. But he says, I've done too many bad things.

I says, no. I says, none of us have done too many bad things. We can go immediately now into your office.

We can both get on our knees and we can repent and call the name of Jesus for help and he will hear us. He said, you almost convinced me to be a Christian. You almost convinced me.

We sat in the same church. I once looked up to him, highly esteemed among men. Was within the year that I'd heard that he died.

He had had a heart attack. He was in the shower. He reached for the phone.

The phone was off the hook when they found him. It was just at arm's reach on the floor to call 911. Should have called on the name of the Lord.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Departing from evil, that's understanding. Don't be wise in your own eyes.

Learn the fear of the Lord. The fear of the Lord can be taught. Come and I'll teach you the fear of the Lord.

The fear of the Lord is to hate evil. You want to choose life. If you choose the fear of the Lord, it says his delight is in the fear of the Lord.

If he only had to choose one, it says that the son, Jesus, speaking of Jesus there, a rod from the stem of Jesse, a branch shall come out of his roots and the spirit of the Lord will rest upon him. It's the fear of the Lord. If you fear God, you don't have to fear anything else.

These men say they have wisdom. They don't have no wisdom. And you know what God will allow to happen because they rejected the word of the Lord.

What wisdom do they have? Therefore I will give their wives, verse 10, to others. Are we seeing it? Not just in the world, but we're seeing it in the churches. That God is allowing a man to lose his wife or a wife to lose her husband to sin.

I will give their fields to those who inherit them. I ran into a number of brothers. They're paying child support.

They had to sell their homes. Others are living, farms, others are living on those farms, farming those grapes and those raspberries and those blueberries that they planted, that they built up for the family. Now somebody else is running it and everything's divided.

A house divided cannot stand because from the least even to the greatest, from the prophet and even to the priest, everyone is given to covetousness. That's the problem. Tomorrow is going to be better than today.

Tomorrow is a new year. Tomorrow we're going to prosper. May you prosper in the Lord, even as your soul prospers.

But somehow the flesh is thinking, can more, buy more, invest more, make more. I'm going to tell you right now, you don't choose the fear of the Lord. The end of that is divorce.

The end of that is losing everything that you work for. The end of that is a lonely life, a broken life, miserable life. Paul talked about covetousness.

We preached on a Thursday night, Romans 7. The good I want to do and the evil that I hate that I practice. I was alive once apart from the law, but then sin entered because of the law. Not that the law was sin, but the law showed me what sin was.

And when I started to see what everybody had and what I didn't have, and it was easy for everybody because they had and I didn't have, covetousness set in. And it began working death in me, Paul says. Sin revived and I died.

But thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ Jesus and through us diffuses the fragrance of Christ in every place. He said, who will deliver me from this body of death? And he looked up. It's not too hard to look up.

You should tell my daughter that. It's not too hard to look up. It's not hard to humble yourself and look up.

Even Nebuchadnezzar looked up after he ate enough grass. He looked up. You know, let's look up sooner than later.

And if we battle with covetousness, I think some of us, we battle with covetousness at times. Wanting what other people have. We get in around successful people and we hear how successful they are in comparison to them.

I mean, we're not there yet. And so it's our belly that urges us on. It's our pride.

We want to make a name for ourselves. We want to build a tower into heaven. We want to leave a legacy.

That's not the legacy. Having your house stamped. Having your children serving the Lord.

Abraham says, what are you going to give me seeing I have no son? More camels, more cars, more goats, more homes, more vacation homes, more holidays. Seeing I have no son who's serving the Lord. There's a heritage.

David said, Lord, that there would always be a man from my line that would sit on the throne. It became my prayer in 2001. I said, Lord, I don't know how many children.

I had two at the time, maybe three. And I said, Lord, that I would always have a son who would walk with you, who would sit in reigning over sin in his life, lead his family in a godly way that I would at least have one. That's what my desire is like David, to leave a line, to leave a legacy, to build a future with the Lord.

And you know, by the grace of God, he's been with us and he's helped us. And he's kept us. He's kept our marriage.

He's kept our family. And we want to set the Lord always before our face. Not money, not things, the Lord.

Things come and go, as Job would tell you. But the Lord never changes. As our brother said, he's a rising of the sun and even unto the new day, the zenith, no shadow of turning.

Look to the Lord and find your joy and hope in him. Find a peace and a rest in Christ. Peace that passes understanding even in the midst of troublesome waters.

You can be at rest in the boat. Jesus was. He gave us an example and a pattern on how we should live, to walk just as he walked.

He didn't ask us to do something that is impossible with the Holy Spirit's power. May the Lord help us to fulfill the purpose and call of God on our life. I woke up this morning with a verse, verse 20.

The harvest is past. This year is done guys. Summer has ended and we're not saved.

There were some things, some altars we built over the last year even. We said this next year I'm going to take some ground. I'm going to get victory over addiction.

I'm going to get married and I want to establish my family or I'm going to start a business. But more importantly, I want to grow spiritually. I'm going to seek the Lord.

I want to go deeper with God. Maybe some of us have taken some ground and praise God for that. But there's some here who haven't.

And he says summer's past. The harvest is past. The summer has ended and we're not saved.

Salvation belongs to our God. And if we come to him, he's in no wise going to cast us out. I'm not talking about a new year's resolution.

I'm just saying, listen, let's keep going with God. Say, Lord, I see some broken down altars, some broken down walls and some broken down fences. I want to be a restorer of the breach.

It has to start with me in my life before I can help anyone else. Have thine own way. Help me, Jesus.

Amen.

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