

Yahweh is gracious and **merciful** [*rachum*]; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness. Yahweh is good to all, and His mercies [*rachum*] are over all His works. Psalm 145:8-9  
Yahweh is **compassionate** [*rachum*] and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. Psalm 103:8

“Compassion” and “mercy” are used interchangeably in both the old and New Testament and hold similar meanings. The Hebrew word “*rachum*” is translated either “merciful” or “compassionate” as with the Greek word “*eleeo*” in the New Testament.

Webster’s definition for compassion is “sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it.” Mercy, compassion, or forbearance shown especially to an offender or to one subject to one's power; also lenient or compassionate treatment, i.e. good Samaritan.

Yahweh’s lovingkindness, compassion, and mercy are expressed over and over throughout Scripture. When God’s love and compassion are embraced wholeheartedly in our hearts, the issue is no longer what He can do, but what we know He yearns to do.

Yahweh longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him. Isaiah 30:18

Yahweh’s lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. *They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.* Lamentations 3:22-23

In Christ the Healer F. F. Bosworth wrote, “The Lord is gracious, meaning he is disposed to show favors. This glorious fact that shines with such brilliance throughout the Scripture has been so eclipsed by modern theology that we hear everywhere, the Lord is able instead of the Lord is gracious. Hundreds needing healing have come or written to us saying, concerning the need “of deliverance,” the Lord is able”; but their teaching, as well as the lack of teaching, has kept them from knowing the Lord is willing. How much faith does it take to say “the Lord is able”? The devil knows God is able, and he knows he is willing; but he has kept people from knowing the latter fact. Satan is willing we shall magnify the Lord’s power, because he knows that this is not a significant basis for faith; but he knows the Lord’s compassion and willingness is.”

Who *is* a God like unto thee that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He retaineth not his anger forever, because He **delighted in mercy.** Micah 7:18 KJV

2 Chronicles 16:9 – Yahweh loves you and longs to be gracious to you. He delights in mercy. He is constantly looking for opportunity to share his lovingkindness with you. Not only is God able, but he is also willing to do “exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.”

Exodus 34:6; Deuteronomy 4:31; 2 Chronicles 30:9; Nehemiah 9:17, 31; Psalms 78:38; 103:8; 111:4; 112:4; 116:5; and Joel 2:13

## For I, Yahweh, do not change Malachi 3:6

### Jesus and Compassion

By showing his compassion everywhere in the healing of the sick, Jesus unveiled the compassionate heart of God to the people. Satan has worked to hide the gracious compassion of our God and Lord. He has broadcasted the unscriptural, ill logical, and worn out statement that the age of miracles is in the past. He has almost succeeded in eclipsing the compassion of God from the eyes of the world. Modern theology magnifies the power of God more than it magnifies His compassion. From Ephesians 1:19, today's emphasis is on "what is the surpassing greatness of His power" rather than "toward us who believe." But the Bible reverses this and magnifies His willingness to use His power more than it does the power itself. In no place does the Bible say that "God is power," but it does say, that "God is love." It is not faith in God's power that secures His blessings, but faith in His love and in His willingness.

The people knew Jesus had the power, so they asked for mercy. "Jesus have mercy on me" was their cry.

Matthew 9:27 – Two blind men asked for mercy.

Matthew 15:22 – Canaanite woman asked for mercy for her daughter.

Matthew 17:15 – The man with the lunatic son asked for mercy.

Matthew 20:30 – Two blind man sitting by the road asked for mercy

Luke 17:12 and 13 – Ten leprous men asked for mercy.

Luke 18:35 - 39 – The blind man in Jericho asked for mercy.

Jesus always showed mercy to those who asked, for compassion was a part of the godly attributes that were his.

Matthew 9:10 - 13; 12:1 - 7 – Jesus knew that God desired compassion rather than sacrifice and lived his life accordingly.

Matthew 9:35 - 38 – Jesus had compassion on the multitudes

Matthew 14:14; 15:32

Matthew 20:29 - 34 – Jesus always had compassion on those who were seeking in

Mark 1:40 - 45 – The compassion that Jesus had was evidenced in the healing of the man.

Luke 7:12 - 15 – When we see Jesus, do we focus on his power to heal or on his compassion and willingness to heal?

Has Jesus changed since he has ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God? I think not!

Hebrews 2:17 and 18; 4:14 - 16

**Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday and today and forever.**

Hebrews 13:8



### Widow of Zarephath

Luke 4:16-27 – The widow and Naaman are examples of faith.

1 Kings 17:1-5 – Elijah did what he was told to do. This we call faith. “He went and did.” Faith and obedience are always connected.

7 – God makes provision for us today, but it is not necessarily the provision for tomorrow. Every day, we are to be dependent on Him. What works today may not tomorrow; we must be willing to change. We have an adversary who constantly adapts to circumstances and changes his attack.

9 – Cherith to Zarephath was 85 miles. Ahab’s wife, Jezebel, the one who brought Baal worship into Israel, was from Sidon. Her father was Ethbal, king of Sidon and high priest of Baal. Ahab and Jezebel searched the kingdom looking for Elijah. The last place they would look was her home town.

10 – He had patience and total dependence upon Yahweh. Again, we see faith in action. “He arose and went.”

12 – She said, “Yahweh **your** God,” not “my God.” She probably was a Baal worshipper.

13 – The great stumbling block for all of us is fear.

14 – The promise of God was stated.

15 – She had faith, “so she went and did.”

16 – God provided.



### Healing of Naaman

2 Kings 5:1 – The latter days of the reign of Israel’s King Jehoram were marked by hostilities with the Armenian king, Ben-Hadad. The Armenians held systematic raids against the Northern Kingdom, culminating in an all-out military excursion into Israel (2 Kings 6:24-7:20).

During the course of one such raid, an Israel maiden had fallen into the hands of Ben-Hadad's field marshal, Naaman. This record of Naaman shows God's willingness to heal anyone who is humble and has faith. Naaman was not an Israelite, rather an enemy of Israel.

3 – The prophet's ability to heal must have been well-known in Israel.

5 – Naaman was a very prominent man in his world. He had direct access to the head of the country, and he was extremely wealthy. The talents are about \$20,000 in silver, \$60,000 in gold.

7 – Jehoram wrongly concluded that Ben-Hadad was trying to instigate a war between their kingdoms; however, since there had been three major battles with Aram during his father Ahab's reign, it is understandable why he thought as he did. The Syrians killed his father, Ahab. Bad blood was between these two countries.

8 – The tearing of one's clothes is an ancient tradition among the Jews, and it is associated with mourning, grief, and loss. It can also be an outward sign of repentance and humility.

10 – Naaman is not used to being treated in such a way. He probably traveled from Damascus to Samaria, a distance of 714 miles. He went to the king, then traveled to the prophet, and now is told to go to the Jordan, another journey of about 16 miles over difficult terrain.

The instruction from the Lord was clear and simple, but it was not to Naaman's liking.

11 – Remember Naaman was highly respected. How do you feel when you are disrespected?

12 – The two rivers of Damascus are near where he lives and are beautiful, deep, broad, rushing mountain streams. The Jordan is not so much.

Our thoughts, plans, ideas, and feelings are useless when it comes to faith. Just do what you are told.

13 – He is an extraordinary man in that he calmed down, humbled himself, and obeyed the words of God spoken by the prophet. He did what he was told.

14 – Humility and obedience are the backbone, mainstay, of faith. Believing is doing what you are told.

James 1:21-25; 2:18-26 – Faith is not just a mental acknowledgement that God's Word is true or that God is faithful to carry out His word.

Luke 4:14-30 – What was the difference between the people of Nazareth and the widow and Naaman?

23 – This proverb was probably in common use at that time. The connection of this proverb, here, is this: "You profess to be the Messiah. You have wrought miracles at Capernaum. You profess to be able to deliver us from our maladies, our sins, our afflictions. Show that you have the power,

that you are worthy of our confidence, by working miracles here, as you profess to have done at Capernaum."

The people in Capernaum contrasted with the widow and Naaman show both sides of faith.

