



Real Life Relationships!
How do we relate in love with those we disciple?



A real-life relationship is when you give someone the right to know everything about you and they give you the right to know everything about them.



We believe Real Life Relationships are the rails that the engine of effective discipleship travels on to reach the destination of spiritual maturity.

In this series, we are learning from the life of Jesus what we need to do to form Real Life Relationships with others.

We have learned that....

1. Jesus was generous with His time with His disciples
2. Jesus was transparent with His disciples
3. Jesus was intentional about knowing His disciples
 - Jesus asked meaningful questions
 - Jesus was a good listener
4. Jesus comforted His disciples

The word comfort comes from two Greek words that mean beside and a tale. Comforting someone requires me to be present and it requires the right words.

Jesus did both with His disciples. He went to be with Mary and Martha when their brother died, and He spoke comforting words.

John 11:17-27

17 So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days.

18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away.

19 And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

20 Now Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house.

21 Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.

22 But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."

23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

24 Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

27 She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

NKJV

But before he raised Lazarus from the dead, He did something else with them. He wept with them.

John 11:32-36

32 Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

33 Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled.

34 And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see."

35 Jesus wept.

36 Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!"

NKJV

He mourned with them their loss. He identified emotionally with their pain as He saw the pain their loss created.

The apostle Paul said it this way...

Romans 12:15

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

NKJV

The journey of life is painful emotionally. Painful means full of pain.

Life is a cycle of emotionally painful moments. Storms of pain happen. Today, every one of us is either....

- Driving through the storm
- Driving out of the storm

- [Driving toward the next storm](#)

This cycle repeats itself on our journey. If you live to be 80 years old, when you look back on your life, you will see these cycles of the storms of pain. Sometimes it is a cycle that we only experience every few years. Sometimes we can feel like we are not getting any relief from the last pain before the next pain stacks up on the last pain.

Death, pain, and sorrow were God's curse for sin.

[Genesis 2:16-17](#)

[16](#) And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;

[17](#) but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

[NKJV](#)

[Genesis 3:16-19](#)

[16](#) To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

[17](#) Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life.

[18](#) Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field.

[19](#) In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return."

[NKJV](#)

Death can occur both relationally and physically.

[Death=Pain and Sorrow](#)

Jesus modeled for us how to comfort people that are suffering from the curse of sin.

- [1. Be beside them](#)
- [2. Speak comforting words to them](#)
- [3. Mourn with them](#)

Jesus thought comforting His disciples was so important, He promised to send them His Spirit to comfort them when He was gone.

[John 14:25-27](#)

[25](#) These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you.

[26](#) But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

[27](#) Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

KJV

Parakletos means consoler or helper.

What is so challenging about comforting people?

1. Being beside them-takes time and possibly money
2. Speaking comforting words to them-takes wisdom
3. Mourning with them-takes compassion

Which one of these three challenges is most difficult for you?

The greatest problem that Jesus saw in the Jews was their failure to have compassion!

Matthew 9:11-13

11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

12 When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.

13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

NKJV

The word mercy comes from the Greek word Eleos and means compassion.

If we have compassion for people that are suffering, we will mourn with them. We will have sympathy. We will be moved to action.

Matthew 9:36

36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

NKJV

Matthew 14:14

14 And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. NKJV

Matthew 15:32

32 Now Jesus called His disciples to Himself and said, "I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. And I do not want to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way."

NKJV

Compassion for others is what causes us to mourn with others.

So, how do we develop compassion for all people because all people are suffering?

John 9:1-7

9 Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth.

2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.

4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

6 When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.

7 And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

NKJV

The disciples of Jesus did not have compassion for the blind man because they believed he was a sinner that was getting what he deserved because of his sin or the sins of his parents!

John 8:1-12

8 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

2 Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them.

3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst,

4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act.

5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?"

6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.

7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."

8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?"

11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

NKJV

The pharisees did not have compassion for the adulterous woman because they believed she was a sinner that was getting what she deserved because of her sin.

Both the disciples of Jesus and the pharisees were so focused on passing judgment on the blind man and the adulterous woman that they did not identify with the pain that both were experiencing.

Why were they this way?

We are called by God to uphold His Word as the standard for what is right and what is wrong. We are supposed to call what is right righteous and what is wrong sinful.

But why were the disciples of Jesus and the Pharisees so focused on passing judgment on the blind man and the adulterous woman that they did not identify with the pain that both were experiencing?

They both believed that because they were committed to obey God, they were righteous, and people that did not share their commitment were sinful.

They also believed that these people were suffering because they were sinful, and they would not suffer like them because they were righteous.

This was the error in the beliefs of Job's friends.

Jesus destroyed this myth. He taught righteous moral laws that are ridiculous. He shared story after story that exposed the sinfulness of mankind. He made it clear that all of mankind is sinful. Jesus said there was no one righteous but God alone.

The apostle Paul said it like this...

[Romans 3:9-18](#)

[9 What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;](#)

[10 As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one:](#)

[11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.](#)

[12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.](#)

[13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:](#)

[14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:](#)

[15 Their feet are swift to shed blood:](#)

[16 Destruction and misery are in their ways:](#)

[17 And the way of peace have they not known:](#)

[18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.](#)

[KJV](#)

If you believe you are righteous because of your works, you will not be compassionate with those who are suffering due to their sin.

If you believe that people are suffering because they are sinful and you are not because you are righteous, you will not be compassionate with those who are suffering.

I might say to someone who is suffering from substance abuse, you might want to get sober before something worse happens.

But the truth is I could get the same physical illnesses and never abuse substances. I can lower my chances by avoiding certain things that God forbids, but I am under the same curse they are under and I am not going to be freed from it until this mortal body gives way to immortality.

There is only one way for unrighteous men to become righteous and that one way is through Jesus Christ.

[Romans 3:21-26](#)

[21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,](#)

[22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;](#)

[23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,](#)

[24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,](#)

[25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,](#)

[26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.](#)

[NKJV](#)

If I understand and believe the gospel, I will not be like the disciples of Jesus or the pharisees or Job's friends.

When people suffer, no matter what causes the suffering, If I understand and believe the gospel, I will see them as victims of sin just like me that need a savior who can deliver them from sin and suffering.

[The gospel of Jesus Christ changes religious hypocrites into compassionate care givers that comfort those who are suffering!](#)

Pride and self-righteousness are the main reason people do not have compassion for others.

Serial killers have this problem. In their twisted minds they are good purging the world of evil.

[It is time for Christians to stop judging people like serial killers and have the mind of Jesus!](#)

If you claim to be a Christian? Have you ever considered that it is impossible to live like a Christian and be self-righteous?

I guess it is possible for you to be a Christian and to be deceived and fall away from the truth of the gospel. You tend to become like who you go to church with. There are a lot of local churches and even denominations filled with self-righteous people. You could be saved and fall away.

But, if you have come to God absolutely bankrupt morally with no confidence in your own moral goodness and with nothing to offer God as a reason to save you, you will be a compassionate person.

- You will mourn with the immoral woman that gets a disease do to her sexual immorality or her drug abuse.
- You will mourn with the immoral man that goes to prison for sexually assaulting children.
- You will mourn with the adulterous man that is divorced because of his unfaithfulness.
- You will mourn with the man that loses his business and even goes to prison due to his greed.
- You will mourn with the substance abuser that loses his family.

You won't save your mourning for those you believe are innocent and undeserving of suffering.

You will mourn for sinners like Jesus did because He is in you.

Will you receive Jesus?

Will you repent if you are self-righteous?

Will you comfort people to form real life relationships with them?