

RETURNING DEVOTIONAL

VINEYARD ANAHEIM



RETURNING TO COMPASSION

by Lambert Lo

“And He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee with Him, and began to be grieved and distressed. Then He said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me.” Matthew 26:37-38

In the moments before his betrayal and arrest, Jesus led his disciples to a garden outside the city. Gethsemane, also known as the oil press, would foretell the suffering Jesus would experience in His spirit, mind and body.

In our cities, both great and small, this is a time of pressing. Many could identify with Jesus' words, “My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death.”

Jesus graciously tells his three close friends (and to us) what compassion in that moment looks like, feels like and sounds like.

He simply asked his friends to stay close and pray. To pray with Him, not at Him. To remain near, when our tendencies shout to get up and fix the situation.

Jesus reveals how to have compassion with those who are hurting. Sometimes the best things we can do for those who suffer is to be present and pray. Compassion seeks to love people not fix people. At times we can become anxious when we try to answer questions nobody is asking.

The God of Compassion is both in you and upon you this pressing hour. He is leading you to your own Gethsemane in your neighborhood, workplace and schools. The Spirit is showing you how to see with His eyes and notice hurting people. When words are neither enough or appropriate, His compassion will convey through gentleness.

The invitation of Jesus from the garden is for a return to compassion. To “weep with those who weep” (Romans 12:15) Jesus' words show us the best example on how to counsel a suffering friend, “Stay here and watch with me.”