

SCRIPTURAL REASONING:

MERCY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

DR EMMANUEL NATHAN

The Practice of Scriptural
Reasoning: Unit 2

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CSU PaCT and ISRA

“WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?”

Luke 10

²⁵ Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” ²⁷ He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and *your neighbor as yourself.*” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And *who is my neighbour?*”

[Leviticus 19

¹⁷ You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, *but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the LORD.]*

“GO AND DO LIKEWISE”

³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ ³⁶ *Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?*” ³⁷ He said, “**The one who showed him mercy.**” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

ἔλεος
eleos

Compassion
Noun, accusative, neuter, singular

Strong's Concordance

eleos: mercy, pity, compassion

Original Word: ἔλεος, ους, τό

Part of Speech: Noun, Masculine; Noun, Neuter

Transliteration: eleos

Phonetic Spelling: (el'-eh-os)

Definition: mercy, pity, compassion

Usage: pity, mercy, compassion.

“MOVED WITH PITY” (NRSV)

Mark 1

⁴⁰ A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, “If you choose, you can make me clean.” ⁴¹ **Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, “I do choose. Be made clean!”** ⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. ⁴³ After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, ⁴⁴ saying to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.” ⁴⁵ But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

“MOVED WITH ANGER” (NIV)

Mark 1

⁴⁰ A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, “If you choose, you can make me clean.” ⁴¹ **Moved with anger, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, “I do choose. Be made clean!”** ⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. ⁴³ After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, ⁴⁴ saying to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.” ⁴⁵ But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

σπλαγχνισθεῖς
splanchnistheis

having been moved with compassion,
Verb, aorist participle passive, nominative masculine
singular

Strong's Concordance

**splagchnizomai: to be moved in the inward parts, i.e.
to feel compassion**

Original Word: σπλαγχνίζομαι

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: splagchnizomai

Phonetic Spelling: (splangkh-nid'-zom-ahee)

Definition: to be moved in the inward parts, to feel
compassion

Usage: I feel compassion, have pity on, am moved.

It is difficult to come to a firm decision concerning the original text. On the one hand, it is easy to see why ὀργισθείς (“being angry”) would have prompted over-scrupulous copyists to alter it to σπλαγχνισθείς (“being filled with compassion”), but not easy to account for the opposite change. On the other hand, a majority of the Committee was impressed by the following considerations:

- (1) The character of the external evidence in support of ὀργισθείς is less impressive than the diversity and character of evidence that supports σπλαγχνισθείς;
- (2) At least two other passages in Mark, which represent Jesus as angry (3:5) or indignant (10:14), have not prompted over-scrupulous copyists to make corrections;
- (3) It is possible that the reading ὀργισθείς either
 - (a) was suggested by ἐμβριμησάμενος of ver. 43, or
 - (b) **arose from confusion between similar words in Aramaic (compare Syriac ethraḥam, “he had pity,” with ethra’em, “he was enraged.”)**