## Alderwood Community Church March 18, 2018

## Relieving the Distress of Others

Legacy of Compassion - Part 3

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." James 1:27

<u>Big Idea:</u> God measures our commitment to him by our compassion and generosity toward others.

1. Gc	od doesn't	all religion.		
Α.	God doesn't want or accept	i just	_service. (Matthew 15:8)	
В.	God doesn't want or accept	t	religious ritual. (Psalm 51:16-17)	
	e religion that God values/ac	-		
"A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows is God in his holy dwelling." Psalms 68:5				
	ly, God has a special concern f selves. ( <b>Psalm 140:12; Prover</b> <b>Luke 12:33-34; De</b> u	bs 14:20, 21:13,		

3.	Having God's heart always requires		
"This is how we know what love is; Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:16-18			
	Oannan Oasatiana		
	Sermon Questions:		
1.	How have the people and ministries of ACC been a channel of God's compassion to you at a difficult time in life?		
2.	Read <b>Psalm 68:4-6</b> . How does God demonstrate His concern for people in distress?		
	Why do you think God takes such an interest in widows, orphans, and others in distress?		

3.	Jeremiah 5 describes the reasons for God's judgment on Israel in the Old Testament. Read Jeremiah 5:28. How do you respond to this description of "religious" people? Why?
4.	What was God's design in the Old Testament for caring for the needy, according to <b>Deuteronomy 24:19–21</b> and <b>26:12–13</b> ?
5.	God's concern for distressed people has not changed! In James 1:27, "to visit" means much more than to drop by for a chat (although it is a great place to start!). Read James 2:14–17 and 1 John 3:16–18. What is the extent of our responsibility?

6.	Read <b>Matthew 15:1-9</b> . Does the practice of your faith look more like "human traditions" (v.6, 9) or God's word? Explain.
7.	Do you know any orphans, widows, or other people in distress? What can you do to help look out for them?