



A FATHER'S COMPASSION

The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering."

Exodus 3:7

When our son was around seven years old, he took the lid off the pepper shaker, saw all the pepper collected there, and decided to clean it out by blowing into it. The pepper flew back into his face and eyes. He yowled in pain. My husband and I felt terrible. We couldn't help him fast enough and quickly tried to wash his eyes out with warm water. But it wasn't enough. He kept crying. We ended up having to take him to the ER. It was such a relief when his eyes were properly taken care of and he didn't have to suffer anymore.

Most of us would have that kind of concern when we have a son or daughter in crisis, wouldn't we?

God had such concern for the Israelites too and sent Moses to rescue them. Though it took time for the Israelites to learn to trust God, He performed miracles to help them through the forty years in the wilderness. It took forty years for Him to fulfill his promise for life in a spacious land, flowing with milk and honey.

We, like the Israelites, are God's children. When we're in pain, suffering physically or emotionally, God will be concerned for us too. It may take time for healing to take place, but if we reach out to Him He will stay with us, helping us through.

I know it's kind of hard to believe at times. God tends to seem far away when we're depressed. Yet He does see us and hears our cries when we suffer. In fact, He *feels* what we feel in our pain and loneliness. Jesus Himself suffered and felt abandoned as He hung on the cross. We can be sure that He understands what we go through as well.

*As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him . . .*

Psalm 103:13

We're not alone.

marja