

# DENAIR FRIENDS CHURCH

## Devotions with Matt

April 4, 2020

This devotion was written by a group of fellow students and me a few years back as we reflected on the 7 Statements of Christ on the Cross. May it be an encouragement to you as we approach Good Friday. Prayer of Preparation

### COMPASSION

Heavenly Father,

**I offer you my life today. Help me to slow down and listen to You. Please speak into my very being whatever you want me to hear today and transform me more into your likeness from our time spent together. Help me to be obedient to follow through with whatever you ask of me.**

Amen.

### Statement from the Cross #3

...He said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." John 19:26-27

### Thoughts of a Fellow Sojourner

What causes a person to risk his or her life to help someone else? As I watched the news about the bombing at the Boston Marathon today, I was heartbroken as I thought about all the people that were impacted by this tragedy. My eyes were flooded with more devastating images than my mind could process. But, then I saw them. Right there in the middle of the chaos, there were a couple of people, normal ordinary citizens, who couldn't just run away without helping. When everyone was being told to leave the area in case there were more bombs, these two people stopped to help the injured. The image that caught me was when they both took off their jackets to either help prevent shock or possibly bind up a wound. No matter the case, these two people gave hope in the midst of tragedy. But I bet if you asked them, they would say that there was no other option for them. They had to help because something inside them drove them to help. That something inside is called "compassion." The Greek word for compassion, **splankna**, actually refers to being moved by a situation or circumstance from the center of our essence. In other words, compassion is that feeling in our gut that drives us to care for others in need.

Even as Jesus was hanging on the Cross, he was moved from the depths of his being to care for his mother. In spite of his own anguish and pain, he was filled with compassion for the woman who had been chosen to give birth to him and then raise him to adulthood. As she stood watching his crucifixion, Jesus spoke words that would place her under the care of one of his closest friends. What she heard and experienced was compassion.

### Moment of Reflection

Take some time in silence for reflection and listen to what God wants to speak into you.

In Christ,

Fellow Sojourners

