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Lynn's "Christian compassion: A charitable history" (book review)

Ntombikayise N. Mathabela
University of Eswatini

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Book Review



Lynn, M. L. (2021) *Christian compassion: A charitable history*. Wipf and Stock Publishers. 324pp. \$29.04. ISBN: 9781725251182

This historical reading unearths insights of compassion through doing good for others – an act of kindness as practiced from the earliest times of Christianity. The book shows such practice as a developing phenomenon that is changing from the twenty first century. The author describes the happenings of compassion and justice through actions that even led others to risk their own lives through Martyrs (p.114) thus encouraging others to practice non-violent acts as a form of charity in the modern day of Christianity.

Charity as a promotion for peace and humanitarianism, community aid and development (p.205) leaves it clear to nowadays readers that what used to happen in earlier times can be identified as good deeds that are practiced in different ways depending on the era. Therefore, the main theme of this reading shows how compassion as a form of charity can be practiced and applied in today's world. Monty Lynn is a recognised writer who has authored many titles including *Development in Mission: A Guide for Transforming Global Poverty and Ourselves*, a title that promotes such acts of kindness to humanity.

This book is an effective and great reading for theologians, believers and people who are growing in their Christian faith as well as those who are actually curious on the evolvement of compassion and kindness as a way of life and how it was applied in the first century. This book engages one's emotions as the author points out compassion as not just a theory, but an applicable need in all spheres of life. One is moved to reflect on themselves in terms of living such a life in the changing times in terms of the application of the principles of Christian faith to other people through actions. Monty begins by identifying the actual compassion (which is a form of charity) and its significance and how it seems to have been applied in earlier Christianity. Relevant scriptures are included to support the principles in Christianity through people who have contributed writings on the subject. The book encourages one to personally pursue the greater and noble life through practising charitable deeds on human life as a promotion of peace in society.

The author has written a well-documented reading as no evident mistakes are identified. Further, it shows relevant references and footnotes that can be verified. Simple English makes the book interesting and easy to follow as one is taken back in time to when charity emanated.

Reviewer

Ntombikayise N. Mathabela, University of Eswatini