

## Compassion Does Something

**Luke 10:25-37 HCSB** Just then an expert in the law stood up to test Him, saying, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (26) "What is written in the law?" He asked him. "How do you read it?" (27) He answered: **Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.** (28) "You've answered correctly," He told him. "Do this and you will live." (29) But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" (30) Jesus took up *the question* and said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him up, and fled, leaving him half dead. (31) A priest happened to be going down that road. When he saw him, he passed by on the other side. (32) In the same way, a Levite, when he arrived at the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. (33) But a Samaritan on his journey came up to him, and when he saw *the man*, he had compassion. (34) He went over to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. 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. When I come back I'll reimburse you for whatever extra you spend.' (36) "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" (37) "The one who showed mercy to him," he said. Then Jesus told him, "Go and do the same."

### Introduction.

How many of you realize that without the compassion of the Lord Jesus Christ, you would not be sitting here today? It is because of His mercy that we are not consumed. I'm thankful that the scriptures say...

- **Psalms 103:8 HCSB** The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and full of faithful love.

He has proven to us that he loves us more than we will ever know. Even in our sin & darkness...His compassion broke through and did something.

It seems to me that the church should be like an intensive care unit. You see, the ICU room in a hospital is different than anywhere on the face of the earth. It is there that people can't seem to do enough for each other. No one is rude. The distinctions of race and class melt away. Each person pulls together for everyone else. The world changes in an ICU waiting room.

Why? Because Christians know that loving someone else is what life is really all about. Today, as we look at God's word...view your circumstances as if you are in an ICU waiting room. Who needs compassion in your life right now? If we lived our lives as people who were in an ICU waiting room...maybe more compassion would flow.

Compassion does something. Using this passage in Luke 10, let me point out four principles concerning compassion:

### 1. Compassion does not mean religiosity.

Note that first of all the lawyer wanted to justify himself in verse 29. We can assume that he was a religious man because he quoted Deuteronomy 6:5 in verse 27. I get the impression that this lawyer with his superior intelligence didn't really want to help his neighbor. But true disciples understand that Compassion does something!

I want you to also note that a Priest and a Levite, both noted for their religious piety...just "passed by on the other side." Now, notice that they both "saw him." (vv.31-32). Church... Compassion does something!

Compassion doesn't "pass by on the other side." What would have happened to the handicapped person on the 82nd floor of the WTC had there not been some heroic individual to carry them?

Church, our religion doesn't make us compassionate. Compassion must be cultivated. And it is cultivated when it does something! You say, "I just don't know what to do." DO SOMETHING!

This leads me to my second point...

## 2. Compassion means involvement.

Take a look at verse 33 again.

- **Luke 10:33 HCSB** But a Samaritan on his journey came up to him, and when he saw *the man, he had compassion.*

Notice three things about this Samaritan (whom the Jews hated):

1. **He was on a journey.** This speaks of me of the inconvenience of showing compassion. The need for compassion always manifests itself when we are on a mission or very busy. Is that true for you?
2. **He came upon him.** Or stumbled upon him. You don't have to look very far to find a need.
3. **He felt compassion.** Somehow, he identified with the man. The man could have been a Jewish man. He could have been his enemy. But moved with compassion...He did something!

Compassion does something!



<sup>1</sup>I love the story of a fifth-grade class at Lake Elementary School in Oceanside, California, that had fourteen boys who had no hair. Only one, however, had no choice in the matter. Ian O'Gorman, was undergoing chemotherapy for lymphoma, and all his hair was falling out... so he had his head shaved. But then 13 of his classmates shaved their heads, so Ian wouldn't feel out of place. Ten-year-old Kyle Hanslik started it all. He talked to some other boys, and before long they all trekked to the barbershop. "The last thing he would want is to not fit in," said Kyle. "We just wanted to make him feel better." Ian's father, Shawn, choked back tears as he talked about what the boys had done. He said simply, "It's hard to put words to."

The Scriptures say

- **Galatians 6:2 HCSB** Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

## 3. Compassion takes time.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://farm3.static.flickr.com/2193/1594515859\\_f23a9d3c5e.jpg?v=0](http://farm3.static.flickr.com/2193/1594515859_f23a9d3c5e.jpg?v=0)

The faithful Samaritan takes the time to bandage up his wounds with oil and wine in verse 34. He takes him to an inn and stays with him for the night to care for him. COMPASSION DOES SOMETHING!

We waste a lot of time don't we? And time is slipping by. How many of you realize that only eternal things really matter?

The Bible states that our lives are like a vapor...they're here for a minute then they are gone. One of the worst things that I can ever imagine is dying and standing before Jesus and realizing that I didn't do all I could have done.

#### **4. Compassion costs something.**

Think deeply with me for just a second. This Samaritan didn't know this man at all. Yet he used costly oil and wine to bandage up his wounds. He picked him up and took him to the local Holiday Inn. That costs something. Then...He gave the innkeeper the equivalence of 2 days pay to care for him. And lastly, committed to pay more if needed. Compassion costs something!

A word of caution...we must be careful! Giving of our resources is not a substitute for our own involvement. The faithful Samaritan got involved and gave.

Turn with me to what I consider one of the most convicting passages of scripture in the entire Bible:

- [1 John 3:16-17 HCSB](#) This is how we have come to know love: He laid down His life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers. (17) If anyone has this world's goods and sees his brother in need but shuts off his compassion from him--how can God's love reside in him?

#### **Conclusion.**

I believe it is in the simple things that God derives pleasure from his children. I have tried to lay out one simple principle...COMPASSION DOES SOMETHING. ANYTHING...BUT IT DOES SOMETHING.

- [Lamentations 3:22-23 HCSB](#) (22) *Because of the LORD's faithful love we do not perish, for His mercies never end.* (23) They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness!