

## 2022 THEME: BETTER TOGETHER

# Becoming a Compassionate & Caring Christian

## Luke 10

### Part 1

#### Introduction:

1. Read **Luke 10:30-37**. **Show video.** How many of you find it relatively easy to love those that love you? How many of you would be really nice to me if I paid off your car or your house? How many of you would be kind and friendly to a certain church member if they bought your lunch every Sunday this year? See my point?
2. Isn't it easy to care for and love people who love us, care for us, and do good to us? It is true and because we know this, we often live this way when it comes to being compassionate and caring towards others.
3. When we love people and do good things for people like this, it really doesn't do much to touch the heart of God. **Why? Because lost people who don't know Christ or have His Spirit inside of them do this for those who love them back. Let's look at Luke 6:32-35.**
4. But what does touch the heart of God? What exactly will make God sit up and take notice? We can find the answer in **Luke 14:12-14**. Notice what it said, you are **blessed**, and **God keeps a record of it!**
5. Do you see the principle in this text? What is it? **God is calling you to a deeper level of love, compassion, and caring.**

- Deeper than we could ever fathom. Loving and caring for others greater than you could have ever imagined you doing.
  - This is God's calling in your life and your greater purpose that is divinely inspired and is a reflection of Christ in you.
6. The Apostle Paul reinforced this principle to the church in **Romans 12:20-21**, *“If thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink... Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”* This is the higher ground.
  7. I have a phrase to summarize this divine thought – it is called **inconvenient caring**. Why? Because anybody can *love* when it's **convenient**, anybody can *care* when it is **convenient**, anybody can *give* when it is **convenient**, and anybody can *serve* when it is **convenient**. But God is calling you to leave your comfort zone to care for people when it is **not convenient**, to love, to care, to give, to serve, and so on.
  8. **Luke 10:30-37** is a parable of Jesus Christ. This is the parable referred to as **“The Good Samaritan.”** (Read the passage one more time.) What a story! It has violence, crime, racial prejudice, hatred, bad guys, good guys, and all the things they make movies, crime scenes, and investigations about today, right? And people say the Bible is outdated, boring, and irrelevant. Obviously, they haven't read this story.
  9. This story has a context. A pompous and self-righteous lawyer (*an expert and teacher of the Mosaic Law*) and this lawyer is trying to ensnare Jesus, backing Him in a corner to

make Him look silly, simply to justify himself and his wrong attitudes. So, he asks Jesus a question (**Luke 10:25**), and then Jesus responds with a question (**Luke 10:26**).

- **Hearing the lawyer's response, Jesus knew the man had the right answer (vs. 27), but not the right actions (vs. 28).**

10. The lawyer, (*who possibly is feeling a little convicted*) is now trying to be really sly, and asks Jesus another question (vs. 29): **“Who is my neighbor?”** From this question comes the story of this parable and lesson (vs. 33).

11. What is the message of this story? There are many things to learn, but what I want you to see today is that...

**God is calling you to a life of compassion and caring.**

 **Compassionate & caring Christians see those around them that are hurting and wounded.**

1. **When it comes to impacting lives for Christ, *leading others to Christ, and compassionate caring*, vision is very important (vs. 33).**

- **John 4:35 - Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest’? Listen! I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest.**

2. This certainly isn't the only component of being compassionate and caring because the priest and Levite did

actually see him, but it is the first step in compassionate caring. **You have to be willing to see wounded lives.**

3. It is clear from this story that your **“neighbor”** is not necessarily your neighbor in the sense of the person living next door to you, your friend, your family member across town, or a fellow church member that is in your LIFE Group, small group, or serves with you in ministry.
4. **Your neighbor, as defined by Jesus’ parable, is the person that enters your life who is wounded and in need.**
  - This possibly is a stranger. We usually think of a “neighbor” as a person we already know and have a relationship with. **No**, it’s a person in need that crosses your path.
5. I believe that **Wounded people cross our lives often, but so many times, we don’t see them.** We have our “to do” list for the day. We have our schedule and our priorities set. And we get tunnel vision. **We can become oblivious to the hurting hearts around us. There are wounded people all around us.**
  - We often too many times don’t notice that our co-worker is depressed. We fail to recognize that the waitress has tears in her eyes. We don’t notice that our kid’s friend has holes in his shoes. We don’t see the single mom who is exasperated with the hood of her car up and three kids in the car fighting and screaming their heads off.
6. It can even happen at church. We don’t see the confused face, not knowing where to go, the person sitting all alone in

the service, the person who came all alone by themselves to church, or maybe the first-time guest who is trying to get three kids to their classrooms, of which they have no idea where they are, or the person looking who is just looking for a seat, etc.

- Yet, we can often come to church a little early, after all, we have to get to our favorite seat, get to worship service for the best place for sound or where it might be a little cooler or warmer, get to our place of service so we don't have time to interact because we might be running late (I know that never happens), or the service is about to wrap up and we have to get to our favorite restaurant and so we leave the service early and aren't concerned with connecting and fellowshiping with guests and other members. *(By the way, you do know that it is okay to miss these if you are helping somebody, don't you?)*

## Conclusion:

- I want you to think of it like this, **Some of the greatest opportunities you have in life to impact people come disguised as interruptions.**
- At times we all think that what we have going on in our life is way more important than what is happening in someone else's life.
- The truth is, this kind of attitude is so self-centered, self-absorbed, and nothing like the heart of Christ. We have to realize this and pray about it, lest we miss those opportunities to care and show compassion just like Jesus would.

4-24-2022

Sunday a.m.

**Let's take time right now in the service as we close and openly ask Christ if we have a selfish or selfless heart. Are we compassionate and caring or do we just think we are so we don't have to deal with the honest truth that maybe this is an area that we all need to grow and change in?**