

2022 THEME: BETTER TOGETHER

Becoming a Compassionate & Caring Christian

Luke 10

Part 2

Introduction:

1. Read **Luke 10:30-37**.
2. It is easy to love, care for, and be compassionate towards those who do those things back to you or are already doing those things to you.
3. Yet, we learned last week that when we love people and do good things for people in this manner, it really doesn't do much to touch the heart of God. Why? Because even lost people who don't know Christ or have His Spirit inside of them do this for those who love them back.
4. What touches the heart of God? Let's look at this once again in **Luke 14:12-14**.
5. May I remind you, that **God is calling you to a deeper level of love, compassion, and caring.**
6. This is **inconvenient caring**. Anybody can love when it's convenient, care, give, and anybody can serve when it is convenient. But God is calling us to leave our comfort zone to care for people when it is **not** convenient, to love, to care, to give, to serve, and so forth.
7. This story has a context. Please allow me to review this with you as a way of introduction once again.

- Here is a pompous and self-righteous lawyer (*an expert and teacher of the Mosaic Law*) and he 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 his response, **Jesus knew the man had the right answer (vs. 27), but *not* the right actions (vs. 28).**
8. The lawyer trying to be slick, asks Jesus another question (**vs. 29**): **“Who is my neighbor?”** From this question comes this story of the Good Samaritan (**vs. 33**). What is the point of all of this?

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).**
2. This certainly isn't the only component (the priest and Levite saw him), but it is the first step in compassionate caring. You have to be willing to see wounded lives.
3. **Your neighbor, as defined by Jesus' parable, is the person that enters your life who is wounded and in need.**
4. **Wounded people cross our lives often, but so many times, we don't see them. We get tunnel vision. We can become**

oblivious to the hurting hearts around us. There are wounded people all around us.

- **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.



Compassionate & caring Christians help when nobody else does.

1. Everybody else kept their distance (**vs. 31-32**), but the Samaritan came where the wounded man was (**vs. 33**). He went to him and bound his wounds (**vs. 34**) – he got personally involved. **It is not enough to simply see wounded people. You have to do something. 1 John 3:17-18**
 - **1 John 3:17-18 - Whoever has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, but closes his heart of compassion from him, how can the love of God remain in him? 18 My little children, let us love not just in word and speech, but in action and truth.**

- Isn't this exactly what Christ did? **1 John 3:16 - By this we know the love of God: that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.**

- Christ saw that we were all wounded by sin. Without help, we would all die eternally in our sinful condition. Christ didn't just feel sorry for us or recognize that we were in bad shape, but He did something about it.

Romans 5:8

2. Did you notice in this story who helped and rescued this wounded man? It wasn't the priest or the Levite. These were the religious leaders at that time who were supposed to know God's Word and know the mind and heart of God.

3. **No, it was a despised and lowly Samaritan who cared and who helped. The hero of this story was a Samaritan! I am sure that this lawyer and any other Jews that were listening recoiled when Jesus said this name. Samaritans were despised by the Jews. They were enemies.**

- We know this story as the **"Good Samaritan"** but those are **not** two words that would have been used together in Christ's day (oxymoron). Samaritans were known as being heathens. Did you notice that the lawyer still wouldn't even say the word **"Samaritan"** in **vs. 36-37**?
- Prejudice runs deep and it is so wrong and judgmental.

4. **When you read the Bible, do you know what you find? God has a habit of using the most unlikely people.**

- **Illustrations:** David rescued Israel by defeating Goliath, Moses rescued the nation of Israel and leads them out of bondage and captivity of Egypt, and Christ died for you to rescue you from sin.
 - **Every person that God uses has two characteristics – they care, and they are willing.** Not the strongest, smartest, or bravest. Nope, just care and be willing.
5. This Samaritan cared; he was willing. It would have been easy for him to have rationalized the situation. He could have said, “This isn’t my problem. His own people walked right by him. They are religious leaders and they didn’t help. Why should I help? Why should I get involved? This Jew probably hates me anyway and won’t appreciate it.”
6. **One of the easiest things to do is to find excuses why not to help, why not to care, and why not to get involved.** The priest and Levite had a chance to put their faith into action but they failed. I’m sure they had noble excuses.
- These guys weren’t monsters; they didn’t commit a crime; they were just religious professionals who were caught up in a lifeless religion. Like the religious people of today, we can often play church. **Religion doesn’t change or affect the way you live, only a relationship with Christ does that.**
7. But here is where I want for it to get personal. I want you to read this statement that I am about to give you and fill in the blank as if you are writing and reading it to yourself. **When God works in my heart, and I decide to compassionately**

care for people, it is then that I begin to realize that the answer for a wounded heart is me.

- Many people are wounded and have nobody to care for them because everybody thinks that somebody else will care or should care for them. It is someone else's responsibility.

Conclusion:

1. **Our compassion for others demonstrates our relationship to God. 1 John 4:20 says, "...for he that loveth not his brother who he has seen, how can he love God who he has not seen?"**
2. The lawyer asked the question, ***"Who is my neighbor?"*** *In other words, who do I have to love, and who do I not have to love?*
3. **When God's compassion begins to work in your heart, you no longer ask the question, "Who is my neighbor?" You ask, "To who can I be a neighbor?" You ask, "What kind of a neighbor am I?"**
4. May God raise up a great host of compassionate and caring Christians here at Freedom that will have a heart for people like Jesus.
5. Pray that you would not only see wounded lives around you but also be willing to help when nobody else will.