

“WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?”
Luke 10:25-37

We live in a world that knows far too little about compassion. In many nations of the world, children are treated like toys, women like slaves and the diseased like a burden. Today we discover four insights that help us develop a heart of compassion in a world where that’s desperately needed.

3 kinds of people:

- Those who beat up others.
- Those who pass up others.
- Those who help up others.

1. See the need.

“But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him...” Luke 10:33

“When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them....” Matthew 9:36

“Remember to welcome strangers, because some who have done this have welcomed angels without knowing it.” Hebrews 13:2, NCV

“If people say, ‘I love God,’ but hate their brothers or sisters, they are liars. Those who do not love their brothers and sisters, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have never seen.” 1 John 4:20, NCV

- Compassion is connected to the health of my relationship with Jesus!

2. Sense the pain.

“compassion” = to be called alongside to help!

Compassion is empathy, not just sympathy.

“(God) comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.” 2 Corinthians 1:4

“Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2, NLT

3. Step into action.

“He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him.” Luke 10:34

“If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” 1 John 3:17,18

4. Set up a long-term plan.

“The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers? The expert in the law replied, ‘The one who had mercy on him.’ Jesus told him, ‘Go and do likewise.’” Luke 10:35-37

- Am I available?
- Am I flexible?

CONCLUSION

- I may not be able to help everyone, but I can help someone!

PRIMARY RESOURCES USED FOR THIS SERMON INCLUDE:

*“Unleashing the power of God in my life” by Mary Southerland
Becoming a Good Samaritan by Michael Seaton
Beyond Your Backyard by Tom Ellsworth
The Hole in our Gospel by Richard Stearns*