

Compassion

Sunday Morning, August 23, 2015

Introduction:

My son-in-law told me about an act of compassion. His boss bought clothes for a homeless man who fell into the mud.

In another situation, my son-in-law stopped on the highway for a truck that passed him that flipped on its side.

I. Religious Self-Righteousness (Luke 10: 25 – 29)

25 And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

26 He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?"

27 So he answered and said, " 'You shall 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 And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live."

29 But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Luke 10:25-29

✚ The challenge to the lawyer was greater than he could keep. We all fail at times.

✚ To love God with all your heart is to accept Jesus as Messiah/Savior/Lord.

To love your neighbor is to have compassion for others as Jesus did. Our neighbor is our fellow human being. The Lawyer thought his neighbor was only his own kind.

II. Religion Does Not Make Us Compassionate (Luke 10: 30 – 35)

30 Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

31 Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

32 Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side.

33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion.

34 So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

35 On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.'

✚ Many Levites and Priests traveled from the temple in Jerusalem to Jericho on this road which was about 17 miles.

✚ A perfect place for bandits to hide in caves and ambush someone.

✚ The Priest saw the man who appeared dead, and he passed by because he did not want to become contaminated according to ceremonial law.

✚ The Levite actually walked up and looked and walked away. He did not want to bury the dead man as was required by the law.

The Samaritan had compassion.
He did six things:

1. He went to him.
2. He bandaged his wounds.
3. He poured oil and wine on the wounds.
4. He put him on his animal.
5. He brought him to an Inn.
6. He took care of him.

The Samaritan...

1. Paid Attention

(Matthew 14:14)

And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.

The Samaritan...

2. Had Affection

(Matthew 5:7)

Blessed are the merciful,
For they shall obtain mercy.

The Samaritan...

3. Took Action

(I John 3:18)

My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

III. Religion Does Not Necessarily Produce Compassion

(Luke 10: 36 – 37)

36 So which of these 3 do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?”

37 And he said, “He who showed mercy on him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go & do likewise.”

- ✝ Jesus forced the Lawyer of the Law to recognize who was neighborly.
- ✝ He hated that the Samaritan showed more compassion than the Priest or Levite!

Reflection Questions:

Are you neighborly?

Are you compassionate?

Have you shown compassion lately?

Conclusion:

How Willing Are We As Christians and Servants of Christ to Have Compassion on Those Who Are Looked Down Upon in Society, or Anyone Who Is Our Neighbor?