

Extending Compassion

July 17, 2022

Luke 10:25-37, *“A lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”²⁶ And He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?”²⁷ And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”²⁸ And He said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this and you will live.”²⁹ But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”³⁰ Jesus replied and said, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead.³¹ And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.³² Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.³³ But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion,³⁴ and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him.³⁵ On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.’³⁶ Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers’ hands?”³⁷ And he said, “The one who showed mercy toward him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do the same.”*

Nine features of a Christlike neighbor:

1. A need was clearly seen, and it couldn't be unseen.
2. Compassion won over all other emotions and responses.
3. Immediate action was taken
4. Risk was incurred
5. Personal comforts were set aside
6. Plans were adjusted
7. Time was invested
8. Money was invested
9. There was a follow-up plan to make sure this man was taken care of.

1. Ignoring a Clearly Seen Need is a Lack of Compassion and it's Sinful

1 John 3:17-18, *“Whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”*

Proverbs 3:27, *“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.”*

2. Jesus is Our Example of Compassion

Mark 2:15-17, *“And it happened that Jesus was reclining at the table in his house, and many tax collectors and sinners were dining with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many of them, and they were following Him. ¹⁶ When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that He was eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they said to His disciples, “Why is He eating and drinking with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹⁷ And hearing this, Jesus said to them, “It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”*

Compassion: to suffer together, to hurt with someone