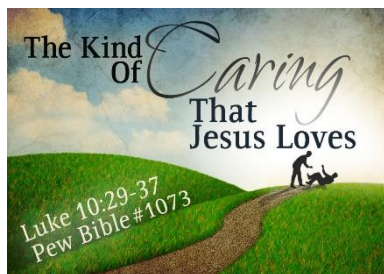


## The Kind Of Caring That Jesus Loves



### Introduction:

Do you find that your human nature is adversarial? One distinctive of our sin nature is pride. Pride, at the root, is an inflated sense of one's status or accomplishments. It inhibits us from caring like Jesus. We must have hearts of humility. Christ reconciled us, and we must provide that same heart in ministry (2 Corinthians 5:18-20). God is calling believers to a deeper level of love and compassion – caring for others even when it is inconvenient. Some of the greatest opportunities you have in life to impact others come disguised as interruptions. We must look for opportunities to help.

### The Focus:

- **Every believer is called to a life of compassionate caring.**
  - **Compassionate caring sees wounded lives.**
  - **Compassionate caring helps when nobody else does.**

On Sunday, Pastor Dan began a three-week view of the well-known parable, “The Good Samaritan.” The story really is about seeing a need and meeting the need – knowing and understanding that when you help you do it without the expectation that the person can or will return your kindness (Luke 14:12-14). The context is that Jesus was drawn into a conversation by a lawyer. After the lawyer asked a question about eternal life, he asked Jesus another question to justify his actions. Trying to inflate his status and self-worth, he asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” And from this question comes the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37).

Being aware, seeing people, is the first step in caring for others (vs. 33). If you don't open your eyes, you will never be moved to help. Five times in the Psalms the word “*compassion*” is used, and every time it is coupled with grace (Psalms 78:38; 86:15; 111:14; 112:4; 145:8). Those of us who are followers of Christ should have the greatest compassion for others, knowing how much grace was given to us (Romans 5:15-21; Ephesians 2:5). In the parable, your neighbor is a person that enters your life who is wounded and in need, and most often, a stranger. Not having a clear vision of the true purpose for why you are here causes you to get tunnel vision (2 Corinthians 4:3-7, 13-18). We must pray and look for opportunities to serve others (Colossians 4:2-6).

The others kept their distance (vs. 31-32), but the Samaritan came to the wounded man and bound his wounds (vs. 33-34). He got personally involved. Christ demonstrated His love for us by seeing our need, being wounded by sin, and answering that need by giving His life (1 John 3:16-18). In the parable, the religious ones (the priest and Levite) weren't moved with compassion. Their religion was void of understanding the heart and mind of God. God's Word reveals two characteristics of those that God uses – they care, and they are willing (Genesis 14; 1 Samuel 17; John 3:16; Colossians 1:20-21). The one thing you can always do to avoid helping the hurting and needy is to find an excuse. But when God works in your heart, your eyes will be opened to the hurts and needs of others. When you believe in Christ and begin to be filled with

God's grace, you will no longer ask the question, "Who is my neighbor?" You will begin to ask "To whom can I be a neighbor, and what kind of neighbor am I?" Understanding God's grace and living out His grace will allow Christ's compassion for others to abound in you.

### **Response to the Sermon:**

In the sermon, Pastor Dan stated that God has called all believers to live a life of compassionate caring. I challenge you to be in prayer about how God can use you this week to help someone in need. Where will you have to go to help others (vs. 33)? When you go, what is necessary to help with the healing process (vs. 34)? When you help, what may it cost you (vs. 34-35)? Remember we must first see the need and possess a willingness to respond.

### **Bible Study Thoughts & Questions:**

If you have ever found yourself hurting or in need, oftentimes, people turn away from you, finding it hard to part with their time and their resources (Matthew 19:21-22). However, those that exhibit a godly, righteous demeanor run to you, giving you their time and resources (Luke 10:33-35; 15:20-24). According to Psalm 78:38, what does compassion do?

If you are in Christ (Romans 8:9-11), and in Christ dwells the fullness of God (Colossians 2:9) then what qualities (Psalm 86:15) should you be displaying toward others if God is "full of compassion?"

Look up the word "*compassion*" in the gospels. Why was Christ moved with compassion, and what did He do in response?

Read Romans 12:4-21. This passage will mention spiritual gifts given to the body of Christ and how you are to use them towards believers and non-believers. What do you learn regarding how you should treat believers and non-believers?

### **Application Questions:**

We can gain much insight in how to interact and engage with people in conversation by studying the life of Jesus. Sometimes, Jesus would ask a question (Luke 10:25-26). Other times,

Jesus would tell a story (Luke 10:30-37). Just as the thieves took the man's things and left him for dead (vs. 30), who and what strips and wounds us (John 10:10; Colossians 2:8; 1 Peter 5:8)?

When you display an uncaring heart that is void of compassion, what attitudes will you display (vs. 31-32)?

The Samaritan's attitude was all about same-side serving (compare vs. 31-32 with vs. 33-34) – *“he saw him... and went to him.”* It says in verse 34 that the Samaritan *“took care of him.”* What did he do to take care of him (see also vs. 35)?

Compassionate caring means that you get personally involved. Looking at verses 33-35, what are some ways that you can get personally involved when you see people hurting and in need?

From the story, it is never revealed that the man which was wounded ever knew of the Samaritan that showed him compassion and kindness. Remember, when we do things for others, who are we doing it unto (Colossians 3:23)? Who rewards us for our work and labor (1 Corinthians 3:8)?

**Prayer:**

- Pray that your eyes, spiritually and physically, would be opened to see wounded people (Ephesians 1:18).
- Pray that God would help you understand your spiritual gift(s) so that you can help those who are in Christ and without Christ (Romans 12:4-21).
- Pray for opportunities to do good unto others (Galatians 6:10).