

The Cost Of Compassionate Caring

THE COST OF COMPASSIONATE CARING

LUKE 10:30-37
PEW BIBLE PAGE #1073

Introduction:

If something given doesn't cost anything, what is its value? How much is it worth? In the Bible, we see that God looks beyond the action or service to the cost involved (Mark 12:41-44).

Compassionate caring will always cost you – your time, money, or resources. But isn't that what the Christ-life is all about (Luke 10:27)? Christ taught us to love others, and He modeled

that life for us by caring for people physically (Luke 7:1-21; Matthew 15:29-39) and by caring for them spiritually (Matthew 9:2; Luke 7:47-48; Mark 5:5-15). And today, every believer is in a position to act on Christ's behalf (2 Corinthians 5:20). Hence, why we are called "*the body of Christ*" (1 Corinthians 12:12, 27)? To carry out the mission of seeing souls restored to a loving relationship with God, through Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)!

The Focus:

- **Every believer should pay the cost to compassionately care.**
 - **By a willingness to give of yourself, your time, and your possessions.**

On Sunday, Pastor Dan taught again from the parable, "The Good Samaritan." From the text, he gave us three points relating to the Samaritan's involvement in caring for the man who was battered and bruised. Paul exhorts Christ's followers in Ephesians 5:2 "*to walk in love,*" and not the feeling of love, but the action of love – "*...as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.*" You see, others may have "*passed by on the other side,*" (Luke 10:31-32), but if you want to love like Christ loves, you will have to open your eyes to see the need in order to meet the need (Luke 10:33).

The Samaritan was going along a commonly used road. The place that he encountered the hurting man wasn't off the beaten path or some obscure remote place; this was a commonly-used road, therefore we see prominent Jewish citizens, the Levite and priest, using the same path. You see, the people in need are often right in front of us along our everyday travels – to work, to school, to small groups, to church, to the gym, to the store, to the ball fields, and wherever you may go.

If you are always too busy, you will never see or be able to minister to people's needs the way God desires. When the Samaritan "*saw*" the man, he had "*compassion*" toward the man, which led to action (Luke 10:33-34). When you are sensitive to the needs of others, you are moved by compassion for them (Philippians 2:4). Compassion for others leads you to give of yourself. Giving of yourself demands not just yourself, but your attention – your time. The Samaritan went to the man, tended his wounds, brought the man to an inn, and cared for him (Luke 10:34). That took time – time that was unplanned and unscheduled.

Caring for others requires us to look for opportunities. The priest and Levite had the same opportunity as the Samaritan, but they made a choice. They must have felt that what they were doing or what they set out to do was more worthy and honorable to them and possibly God

than to get involved in the affairs of this man's problems. They felt that the cost was too great, avoiding the situation rather than getting involved to help the "half dead" man (Luke 10:30). In economic terms this is called "opportunity cost" – "the loss of potential gain from other alternatives when one alternative is chosen." You see, whatever we may think we will gain down here pales in comparison to the reward we will experience in heaven (Philippians 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:19).

Not only will compassionate caring involve the giving of yourself and time, it will involve your willingness to give of your possessions. The thieves took what was not their own, the priest and Levite kept of their own, and the Samaritan gave of his own. Satan desires for us to display our pride when it comes to helping the hurting. He desires for us to use people and love things, but God's heart is for us to love people and use things. Satan's approach and the world's philosophy are diametrically opposed to God's Word as to how we should communicate our love. Sometimes the only reward for compassionately caring is the inner joy that comes from caring, loving, and being like Christ. But what a reward it is!

Response to the Sermon:

In the sermon, Pastor Dan stated that compassionate caring comes with a cost. Last week I challenged you to pray about how you could meet a need. Looking back on your week, were there opportunities to minister to people's needs? What were they (Luke 10:33)? What resources do you possess that you can use to help people (Luke 10:34-35)? What are some organizations and ministries within the community that you could get involved with that would help meet the needs of others?

Bible Study Thoughts & Questions:

For some people, giving of yourself and your things seems fearful and scary, especially if you don't have an abundance of money or things. However, we must remember that God has not given us a spirit of fear, but rather a spirit of power, love, and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7). And it is God that owns everything we possess anyway (Deuteronomy 10:14). Therefore, as we work, we ought to remember those that are unable to support themselves (Acts 20:35). Will you be a vessel that God can help meet people's needs (Philippians 4:19)?

God has called us to be a "living sacrifice" (Romans 12:1) in return for Christ's sacrifice whereby He gave His life so that we might have life eternal. How can you give to advance the gospel of Christ? What resources do you have to minister to the needs of others?

You may be asking, what does it matter that I care? According to Jude 22 what can a person make if moved by compassion? What is the greatest thing that could happen to someone because of your compassion (Romans 10:9-15)?

Application Questions:

Christ responded with the parable of “The Good Samaritan” to the lawyer’s question (Luke 10:29), “Who is my neighbor?” Knowing the story, how neighborly are you? Do you find it easy to give of yourself, your time, and your possessions? Are you willing to be inconvenienced in your plans to help meet a need of another? Who tended to the hurting man’s wounds? If wounds, especially emotional and physical, are going to heal how will God accomplish this (Luke 10:33-35)? If spiritual life is going to be revealed so others can heal spiritually, who will God use (Romans 10:15; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)?

Identify the process of how the Samaritan came to helping the man who was wounded (vs. 33-35)?

Just like the Samaritan commissioned the innkeeper to take care of the hurting man in his stead, who does Christ give us to comfort and help us until He returns (John 14:16, 26; Ephesians 1:14)?

As the body of Christ, how are we to respond to the needs of others (2 Corinthians 1:4, 11)?

Prayer:

- Remember to thank God for your ability to work, but also pray that you will remember to help those in need (Acts 20:35).
- Pray that God will 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 that God will help you see the need to invest yourself in others (2 Corinthians 8:9).