

Believe Series
“Compassion”

What about the poor and injustice?

*The LORD is close to the brokenhearted;
he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.*

Psalm 34:18 (NLT)

*“Give justice to the poor and the orphan;
uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute.
Rescue the poor and helpless;
deliver them from the grasp of evil people.*

Psalm 82:3-4 (NLT)

**We believe God calls all Christians to show
compassion to people in need.**

How do we see people?

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: “Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?”

Jesus replied, “What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?”

The man answered, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.”

“Right!” Jesus told him. “Do this and you will live!”

The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Luke 10:25-29 (NLT)

Do you see a neighbor or a nuisance?

See a need.

Jesus replied with a story: “A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.

“By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.

“Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him.

Luke 10:30-33 (NLT)

Trust your gut.

Do something.

Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’

“Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked.

*The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.”
Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”*

Luke 10:34-37 (NLT)

Get off your donkey and help.

Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well” - but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?

James 2:15-16 (NLT)

SO WHAT?

“But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed

me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'

"Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

"And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'

Matthew 25:31-40 (NLT)

What do you believe?

Growth Group Questions

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

Read Believe Chapter 8: Compassion.

1. Where in your life do you typically see people in need?
2. What are our greatest challenges to showing compassion to people in need?
3. In what ways have you been shown compassion from a family member, friend, or even strangers?
4. Re-read Luke 10:25-37. How do we tend to justify our actions in regards to helping those in need?

What was the cost of helping the man in the ditch?

What are some of the cost for us to help?

5. Re-read Matthew 25:31-40. How does Jesus tie compassion to eternity?
6. Where in your life do you currently see a need and an opportunity to help someone?

What will it take to get off your donkey and do something about it?