

**The Good Samaritan: Who is my neighbor?
Luke 10:25-37**

Welcome/Introduction

Luke 10:25-29

That's the question Jesus answers with a story. But not just a story—a mirror.

Luke 10:30-32

Let's pause here. Neither of these men ***hated*** the wounded traveler. But they were ***indifferent***.

Now they may have had their reasons:

Ritual purity laws, fear of bandits (The pass of adummim is dangerous), tight schedules (coming back from the temple/work), or even the assumption that someone else would help (there are others on this road too).

To be indifferent is to love but with your hands in your pockets.

Luke 10:33-37

But it is the Samaritan who sees, feels compassion, and takes action.

He doesn't just throw a coin and walk on. He kneels down. Wraps his wounds. Puts the man on his own donkey. Walks beside him. Brings him to an inn. Pays for his care. Promises to return.

This type of love not only ***sees***, but ***stops*** to do something, and it is ***sacrificial***.

“Who is my neighbor versus whose neighbor am I?”

Big Idea: Compassion is love in action

The expert answered correctly: **“the one who showed him mercy”**.
And the lesson from Jesus is quite simple, **“go and do the same”**.

When we see Jesus “moved with compassion” it is followed by action.

Healing, Feeding, Praying, Teaching, Bringing a child back to life.

1. Compassion Stops Verses 31-33

Explain: When we are moved with compassion, we are more willing to stop. In this parable we see 2 people who we would expect to stop but who are simply unwilling. They were not evil people, in fact they were religious people. They just lost their focus, they prioritized their religious activity over people. **Our Value: People are our priority!** It is easy to insulate and isolate ourselves.

Argue: Mark 6:30-34, Luke 7:11-17

Illustrate: Article about a Canadian student who decided to do a personal experiment - do an act of kindness each day for 108 days.

Apply: I know for me it is often very difficult to understand what others are going through and that makes it a challenge for me to be “moved with compassion”. When we can stop, get around some people who are not like us, get out of our comfort zone, change our environment, slow down from our busy lives then we give our compassion a chance to grow.

2. Compassion Sees Verse 34

Explain: When we are moved with compassion we can more clearly see the needs and meet them. Compassion does not ignore what it sees. As we are exposed to the needs of others, we have the opportunity to show empathy, to encourage them, to support them. And to be clear these are not just physical needs, but emotional needs and spiritual needs.

Illustrate: A few years ago, I decided to make an intentional effort in practicing hospitality. For me it was a way to intentionally put people in my view/in my way. Allowed me to grow in my understanding of others - sitting at the table.

Argue: Mark 1:40-42

Apply: See the needs of others and respond! As a church we are constantly sharing/showing the needs, inviting you to join a serve team, we are experiencing baptisms together, clothing drive/backpack drive/giving hope, community market, serve trips, Monthly Practice is Serving.

3. Compassion Sacrifices Verse 35 **Keys Cue**

Explain: He gave his time and paid the innkeeper to care for the man.
To give of your time, to give of your abilities, to give of your money or possessions.

Are you willing to give up some of your time? Are you willing to give of your talent/skills/abilities? Are you willing to give away your money/possessions?

If compassion is love in action, it requires a response.

Argue: John 6:1-15

Apply: Maybe the step for you is to start serving, maybe it's to start giving, when you see a need... meet it. Give freely as you have received.

What is one way you can show compassion to someone this week?

How could you make compassion a part of your rhythm of life?

When we take a step back from this story, we see that Jesus is the Good Samaritan. Jesus is the ultimate sign of compassion, of love in action, by giving His life for us.

Romans 5:6-8

The Gospel: We are the man who was on the side of the road.

- Jesus saw us broken, half-dead and helpless in our sin.
- Others passed us by, but Jesus crossed the road from heaven to down to earth.
- Jesus saw us wounded and had mercy on us.
- He paid our debt with his blood.
- He said, "I'll come back for you" so that we could be healed and restored.

Invitation/Prayer