

Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 6, 2013

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, *Compassion: A Heart For The Hurting*, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Can you think of a time when you saw someone else's need and you either stepped out of your comfort zone to meet that need, or you played it cautious and held back?

How did you feel before and after either response?

What are some of the reasons we can give for not stopping to help people in need who come across our path?

2. Imagine that you could look into the future and see that you were going to meet someone who had a significant need. What kind of need would you most like to meet? In other words, what resources (if any) or help would you most enjoy sharing with others?

What needs or issues do you feel least equipped to help others with?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Jesus was often interrupted by people seeking to have their needs met. At times, he was mobbed by people much like what happens when movie stars and celebrities go out in public today. What do you notice about how he handled those interruptions from the following passages?

Mark 10:46-52

Blind Bartimaeus Receives His Sight

46 Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means "son of Timaeus"), was sitting by the roadside begging. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

48 Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

49 Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."

So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." 50 Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

51 "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

52 "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road. [NIV]

Luke 8:40-48

Jesus Raises a Dead Girl and Heals a Sick Woman

40 Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. 41 Then a man named Jairus, a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house 42 because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying.

As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him. 43 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. 44 She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.

45 "Who touched me?" Jesus asked.

When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you."

46 But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me."

47 Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. 48 Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace." [NIV]

What could help you take notice and pay attention to the needs of others instead of seeing their needs as an interruption?

What can distract you from taking notice of these needs?

Can you think of any ways you can become more interruptible so you can be better used by God? If so, explain.

2. One of Larry's points this weekend in defining biblical compassion was to "do what you can." How do you see this point revealed in Jesus' involvement with a group of needy and hurting people in Mark 1:32-39?

Mark 1:32-39

32 That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. 33 The whole town gathered at the door, 34 and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

Jesus Prays in a Solitary Place³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. 36 Simon and his companions went to look for him, 37 and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!”

38 Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.” 39 So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons. [NIV]

What might you say to someone who was actively involved in meeting needs but not feeling like they were doing enough?

What might you say to someone who told you they were too busy to really help anyone in need?

3. Because there were so many hurting and needy people during the time when the Bible was written, it can serve as a great guide for knowing how to respond to people in need. What guidelines and cautions do the following passages offer for helping us live a more compassionate life?

Proverbs 14:31

31 Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God. [NIV]

Proverbs 31:8-9

8 Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.

9 Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. [NIV]

Matthew 6:1-4

Giving to the Needy

6 1 “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

2 “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 3 But when you give to the

needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. [NIV]

TAKING IT HOME

Does anyone come to mind when you ask yourself this question, "Who do I know that is hurting or needy that could use my help this week?" What could you do to specifically help that person?

Prayer Requests:

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