

SO WHAT

- What did Jesus do in the towns and villages He went to?
- How is our view of people usually different from Jesus' view? How can we be seeing people the way Jesus sees them?
- Why is the gospel the ultimate gift we can respond with? Why should we go beyond meeting people's felt needs and telling them about Jesus?

NOW WHAT

- Have you experienced Jesus' compassion for you? If not, would you like to know what He's done for you and how you can be saved?
- What areas in your life do you think do not coincide with your confession on who God is? Allow God to do a transforming work in you.
- Who do you need to see the way Jesus does? How can you show him/her compassion this week?

PRAYER

- Thank God for His compassion and love for us.
Thank Him for His sacrifice on the cross and for saving us.
- Ask God to help you see people the way He does, to feel compassion the way He does, and to respond the way He does.
- Pray that you will be a channel of God's compassion and that you would share the gospel with wisdom, boldness, and urgency.



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WEEK 1

He Cares



NOTES

CONNECT

- Do you like asking for help when you have a problem?
Why or why not?
- Recall a time when you helped a friend or family member.
What happened?
- How do you respond when you see a beggar? Why do you think you respond that way?

WORD

³⁵Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. MATTHEW 9:35,36

WHAT

Jesus modeled compassion. He cared for people. He went to them, healed them, and preached the good news of the kingdom. As followers of Jesus, we who have experienced His compassion and love, can also extend this to others. Because we have been changed by God’s overwhelming love shown to us on the cross, we can follow His example. In this lesson, we will answer three questions about compassion as we follow Jesus’ example.

1 Do you feel compassion the way Jesus does?

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them . . .
MATTHEW 9:36

As Jesus went through all the towns and villages, He didn’t just see the need—He felt it. This compassion isn’t just an emotion—it is deep sympathy and yearning that also comes with a strong desire to help the person who is in trouble. How did Jesus show His compassion for mankind?

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2 Do you see people the way Jesus sees them?

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
MATTHEW 9:36

Jesus saw that the crowds were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He saw that they needed God. We can either see people the way we want to—e.g. needy, pushy, selfish, independent, successful—or we can see them the way Jesus does—lost without the gospel. What would “sheep without a shepherd” look like?

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3 Do you respond the way Jesus does?

³⁷Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” ¹He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. MATTHEW 9:37-10:1

Jesus knew that the people were lost, they needed God, and the harvest is plentiful. He knew there was a lot of work to do. He responded to what He saw by telling His disciples to pray for more workers, calling His disciples, and sending them out. The most compassionate way to respond to people is not feeding them or meeting their physical needs—it’s sharing the gospel to them and telling them about the good news of salvation. Who were the workers Jesus sent out? Who are the workers in our day and age?

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