

#Struggles

Compassion (Wk.3)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

True compassion is each of us serving one of us.

Key Scriptures

A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. "If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean," he said. Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!"

Mark 1:40-41NLT

Our social media soaked culture has left us settling at best for momentary empathy, and at worst lasting apathy.

Compassion fatigue sets in when we become inundated and overwhelmed by the needs around us.

"I discovered that compassion fatigue is a real thing. Emotions, so strong at first, can easily shift into apathy. The subsequent guilt is paralyzing; it can prevent us from ever doing anything and freeze us into inaction. No wonder some people live for themselves, unaware of or unengaged with those who desperately need help. When global problems overwhelm, the human tendency is to do nothing." – Chris Marlow, Doing Good Is Simple: Making a Difference Right Where You Are

Compassion in the New Testament:

Splagchnizomai – to have the bowels yearn and be moved to action.

Facets of true compassion:

True compassion **INTERRUPTS**.

True compassion **RISKS**.

True compassion **CHANGES LIVES**.

Start talking.

- What are the latest needs/problems you've seen through social media?
- What is your typical response to those needs?

Start thinking.

- Read Mark 1:40-41. Whether in a LifeGroup or journaling on your own, take a moment and engage in a little "forensic analysis". Describe the scene that must have taken place during this situation. Who were the players involved? What was their motivation/expectations?
- Why did Jesus touch the man before healing him?
- We have the benefit on hindsight and knowing how the healing eventually came. The crowd gathered around Jesus and the leper did not. How did they respond to Jesus reaching out and touching the man?

Start sharing.

- Jesus never lost, "the forest for the trees." He always saw individuals even in the midst of pressing crowds. How has Jesus treated you individually?
- Why is it often harder to serve individuals? And conversely, what is often appealing about keeping people at arms length and keeping your offers to help at a safe distance?
- How are we impacted when we lean in to difficult situations and serve individuals?

Start doing.

- Andy Stanley has a great quote, "Do for one, what you wish you could do for everyone." Who could you apply this to this week?
- How can you connect individually to a global need?
- Scripture supports the concept of a "theology of place". You are not where you are by chance. You are not at Harbor Church by chance. Where at Harbor can you serve individuals? KidsChurch? Harbor Youth? Welcome Team? Harbor Food Team? Tech Team? Worship Team? One of our Global teams?

Close in prayer.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:12.

We are not called to change the course of nations. Each of us are called to serve one of us. Ask God to reveal to you how you can best fulfill this calling.