

**SO WHAT**

- What do you think made the characters in the parable respond the way they did?
- What lesson about helping others can we learn from the story?
- Which of the characters would you like to emulate? Why?

**NOW WHAT**

- Take the time to go out of your way and help a stranger who is in need this week.
- Share of a situation where someone helped you even though you don't deserve his or her help.
- Help a person that you don't like in anyway that you can this week.

**PRAYER**

- Ask God for the grace to be able to relate well with people that you don't really like. Pray that you would be able to respond with compassion towards them.
- Pray for God's grace, that you would respond with compassion to people in need.
- Pray a prayer of blessing for the people that you may not like.



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**WEEK 2**



**Compassionate People**

**NOTES**

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**CONNECT**

- Have you ever received help from an unexpected source? How did you feel?
- Tell of a time when you helped a stranger. What happened and what did you learn from that experience?
- What social service activity have you recently been involved with (i.e. orphanage visit, building houses, feeding programs, etc)? What was the experience like?

**WORD**

<sup>33</sup>"But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup>He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup>The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'" LUKE 10:33-35  
(ALSO READ LUKE 10:30-32.)

**WHAT**

In Mark 12:31, Jesus tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves. He did not say that we lend a hand only to those we like but generally to every person who is in need. How do we usually respond to people who are in need? Here are three common responses.

**1 We can be apathetic and unconcerned.**

<sup>30</sup>In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup>A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side." LUKE 10:30,31

This was the attitude of the priest, the first man to pass by the victim. He avoided the beaten and half-dead man. He probably thought, "If I don't get involved I won't get hurt." What examples did Jesus show in the Bible for caring for the needy?

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**2 We can be curious but uninvolved.**

"So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side." LUKE 10:32

This attitude was worse than the first one. The first man saw the victim but ignored him. The Levite saw and acknowledged the same but didn't do anything else about the situation. The curious and uninvolved are only good in judging the victims. What does the Bible say about judging others (Matthew 7:1,2)?

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**3 We can be compassionate and caring.**

<sup>33</sup>"But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup>He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup>The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'" LUKE 10:33-35

We actually have the choice of responding to the poor and needy around us just like what the Good Samaritan did. The Jews and Samaritans hated each other so much, that people were surprised when Jesus made a Samaritan the hero of the story. We have to learn to see the people around you as Jesus sees them. Who does God care for?

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