

His Compassion

Luke 5:12 While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." 13 Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him. 14 Then Jesus ordered him, "Don't tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." 15 Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. 16 But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. 17 One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick. 18 Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. 19 When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. 20 When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." 21 The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 22 Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? 23 Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? 24 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. . . ." He said to the paralytic man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." 25 Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. 26 Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today." 27 After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, 28 and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. 29 Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. 30 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" 31 Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

This Series, We are Learning . . .

1. Jesus has all the necessary qualities to lead His church and someday this world.
2. We can learn from the leadership qualities of Jesus and become better leaders in our areas of influence.

A Definition: "Compassion, -- is YOUR pain, -- in MY heart."

Three Stories of Compassion

1. Jesus touched an untouchable!

The man in need made a statement of faith.

Jesus didn't show compassion to be noticed by the crowd.

The cleansing was to be according to the Law of Moses.

And it was to be a testimony.

2. Jesus healed a broken heart!

The friends of the paralytic made a statement of faith. (action)

What did the paralytic really want?

3. Jesus befriended and a man that was unloved.

Levi made no obvious statement of faith.

He immediately followed Jesus – he needed friendship.

II. The Lessons We Learn

1. A compassionate person sees needs and finds ways to supply.
2. A compassionate person is discerning. He understands that the need is not always obvious.
3. A compassionate person doesn't work by appointment.
He/she understands that being compassionate is always a current appointment!
4. A compassionate person is sensitive to needs because of prayer.
Luke 5:16 But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.
5. A compassionate person isn't looking for rewards or recognition.
6. A compassionate person doesn't care what others think and isn't stopped by personal prejudice.
7. A compassionate person understands that compassion is only shown to people who have a need.

Luke 5:31 Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

III. Our Homework

Look for one opportunity this week to show compassion in the name of Jesus Christ – and don't look for thanks or reward.