



MERCY IS ACTIVE!

“Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked. The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.” Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.” – Luke 10:36-37 (NLT)

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

READ LUKE 10:25-37

Compassion is an interesting word. When taken apart, it literally means “to suffer with.” Compassion is not just feeling sorry for someone, shedding a tear, and going on your way. It is joining *with* someone who is suffering; In a sense, it is feeling their pain as your own.

It's kind of sad that in the story Jesus told of the Good Samaritan, the religious leaders (the priest and the temple assistant or Levite) showed little compassion. They passed right by the injured Jewish man. It was the Samaritan, the one who was least expected to offer any help, who stopped. We are told the Samaritan “felt compassion for him.” And his feelings caused him to take some practical steps to help: he bandaged the man's wounds, took him to an inn, and paid for his care. He sacrificed time and money to help because he felt compassion.

It's not enough just to feel compassion for someone. Jesus wants us to act on this feeling and help people in need. We don't need to look far to find them. Next time you find yourself feeling sorry for someone, ask God what you might do to help ease that person's pain or suffering. Sometimes it is inconvenient to show compassion. But our Savior came as a servant, and we are meant to be like him. What's amazing is that when we do take the time to show compassion, we can find great joy. After all, Jesus tells us that whoever wants to be great in God's kingdom should be a servant! (Matthew 20:26)

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

1. When has an act of service or compassion brought you joy?
2. Who are you feeling compassion for today? What practical action step can you take to share in their suffering?
3. Who has been a “Good Samaritan” to you lately? Express your gratitude to them this week!