



“Compassion Tells The Story”

Luke 10

Small Group Plan

*The man wanted to justify his actions,
so he asked Jesus,
“And who is my neighbor?”
— Luke 10:29 —*

Who is my neighbor?

The correct first century Rabbinical answer to the question “Who is my neighbor?” is: “Your neighbor is a member of your family.” The Biblical obligation to “love your neighbor as yourself” was a family obligation.

In that day, families lived together in multi-generational homes, and within a village like Jesus’ hometown of Nazareth, the interrelationships could even extend the meaning of “family” to the whole village.

So, this lawyer, this Jewish Biblical scholar, is expecting Jesus to answer him with something about the responsibility to love and care for your family or your extended family or village.

Surprise. Jesus tells an uncomfortable story.

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

*The opposite of love is not hate.
It is something much cooler, more pallid,
and really much more cruel
The opposite of love is indifference.*

— William Hague

- Do you agree with William Hague? Why or why not?
- How do you define “compassion”?
- Where have you seen it in action?

Luke 10:30-37

³⁰ "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— COMPASSION SEES SOMETHING —

Luke 10:33a

*But a Samaritan, as he traveled,
came where the man was; and when he saw him*

- How was his **view** different from the priest and Levite?

— COMPASSION FEELS SOMETHING —

Luke 10:33b

When he saw him, he took pity on him.

- What does “pity” mean as it is used here?

— COMPASSION DOES SOMETHING —

Luke 10:34

*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.*

- Identify the six action verbs in this one verse.
- Why is true compassion always active?

— COMPASSION COSTS SOMETHING —

Luke 10:35a

*The next day he took out two silver coins
and gave them to the innkeeper.*

- What does compassion cost today?

— COMPASSION RISKS SOMETHING —

Luke 10:35b

*“Look after him,” he said,
“and when I return,
I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.”*

- Why is compassion accountable, liable, responsible?
- Are people today more likely to be careful or risky with their compassion? Explain.

— COMPASSION MEANS SOMETHING —

Luke 10:36-37

³⁶ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” ³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

- How did Jesus change the whole question of who is the neighbor?

USE IT / APPY IT ...

*Compassion is the sometimes fatal capacity
for feeling what it's like
to live inside somebody else's skin.
It is the knowledge
that there can never really be
any peace and joy for me
until there is peace and joy
finally for you too.*

— Frederick Buechner

- How can Inconvenience or surprise block our compassion?
- How can unfamiliarity limit our compassion?
- Think about the levels of compassion: (1) Pity (2) Contact (3) Sacrifice (4) Risk. What helps you to move through one level to the next?
- Ask God to show you what compassion really means and to give you an opportunity this week to be His Samaritan.