



Compassion: The Untold Story

Luke 10:25-37 (NIV)

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"²⁶ "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"²⁷ He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"²⁸ "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"³⁰ 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.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.³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.³⁴ 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.³⁵ 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.'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."

I. Compassion is not produced by rule-following but by experiencing extravagant grace! (Luke 10:33)

- Compassion is not so much an action we choose but an emotion that overwhelms us.
- Jesus is our substitute before He is our example. (Ezekiel 36:26)

II. Take home:

Growing in compassion takes:

1. A constant reminder of God's grace in our lives! (Romans 12:1)
2. A reminder that God didn't call us to be careless but He did call us to be courageous.
 - Compassion is seeing a need and meeting it, knowing the cost and paying it, and refusing to talk ourselves out of it!
3. A reminder that compassion takes margin.

Good stuff happens in the margin!

Leviticus 19:9-10 (NIV)

"When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest.⁹ Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God."

- What is one good thing you need to say no to this week to create margin for a great thing?