

It's one thing to see a need. It's another thing to do something about it.

We encounter hurting people every day—some close to home, others halfway around the world. We may feel sympathy for their circumstances or even imagine what they're going through. But **compassion moves us beyond what we feel to what we're willing to do.**

This Sunday, as we brought our One Day gifts together, Colby Atkins from Convoy of Hope challenged us to consider what it really means to live with the compassion of Jesus. Through the story of the Good Samaritan, we'll explore what happens when we stop simply noticing needs and begin responding to them.

Compassion isn't just something we feel. It's something we do.

CONNECT & FOLLOW THROUGH

Last week, we looked at the story of Elisha and the twenty loaves of bread that fed one hundred people. We talked about trusting God with what we have, even when it doesn't seem like enough. We challenged ourselves to identify one step of obedience we needed to take, even without knowing how everything would work out.

Let's follow up.

- **What step of faith or obedience did you identify last week? Were you able to take it?**
- **If you hesitated or held back, what got in the way? What might your next step look like now?**

Remember, accountability isn't about proving we succeeded. It's about being honest with one another and **helping one another faithfully follow Jesus.**

OPENING PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for the compassion You've shown us. Open our eyes to the needs around us and soften our hearts toward people who are hurting. As we open Your Word, help us recognize where we've become comfortable simply noticing needs instead of responding to them. Teach us to love people the way You do and give us the courage to put that love into action. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT

We live in a world where we're constantly exposed to suffering. We see stories about poverty, hunger, natural disasters, and people experiencing unimaginable hardship. Sometimes the needs feel overwhelming. Other times, they're simply inconvenient. We care, but it's easy to move on with our day.

The speaker reminded us that there's an important difference between sympathy, empathy, and compassion.

Sympathy says, "I'm hurting for you."

Empathy says, "I'm hurting with you."

Compassion says, "I'm going to do something about it."

He described compassion as **"passion with feet on it."**

- **Why do you think it's possible to genuinely care about someone's situation but never take action?**
- **What most often keeps you from responding to a need—feeling overwhelmed, not knowing what to do, inconvenience, fear, or something else?**

READ: LUKE 10:25–37

An expert in religious law asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus turns the question back to him, and the man correctly identifies the two greatest commandments: **love God and love your neighbor**. But when the man asks, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus tells the story of a man attacked by robbers and left half dead beside the road.

A priest sees him and passes by. A Levite sees him and passes by. Then a Samaritan—someone who would have been considered an outsider and even an enemy—stops to help. The Samaritan doesn't just feel sorry for the man. He approaches him, treats his wounds, brings him somewhere safe, and pays for his continued care.

Several characteristics of compassion are highlighted in this story.

Compassion runs to the hurting. The Samaritan was willing to interrupt his plans, step outside his comfort zone, and move toward someone in need.

Compassion breaks barriers and builds bridges. The Samaritan didn't allow cultural differences, prejudice, or the possibility of rejection to determine how he treated the injured man.

Compassion sees beyond someone's circumstances. Where others saw an injured stranger, the Samaritan saw a person worth helping. True compassion doesn't just see where someone is. It recognizes their dignity and the possibility of a different future.

Compassion remembers what it has received. When we recognize the mercy and grace God has extended to us, we're better able to extend that same compassion to others.

- **What stands out to you most about the Samaritan's response compared with the priest and Levite?**
- **Which of these characteristics of compassion challenges you most right now? Why?**

READ: MATTHEW 9:35–38

As Jesus traveled through towns and villages, He saw the crowds and was moved with compassion because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He then told His disciples that the harvest was plentiful, but the workers were few.

Jesus didn't just see crowds. **He saw people with real needs, real struggles, and real spiritual hunger.**

We were challenged to consider whether we're asking God to move while overlooking the ways He's inviting us to move toward others. What if we began praying not only for God to do something, but for Him to give us hearts that respond to what He sees?

- **What do you notice about the way Jesus sees people compared with the way we sometimes see them?**
- **How might our everyday lives look different if we began asking God to help us see people through His eyes?**

READ: 1 JOHN 3:17–18

John challenges believers to consider what it means to have resources to help someone in need but refuse to respond. He reminds us that love isn't meant to exist only in words. It should be demonstrated through our actions. A similar point was made about the priest and Levite in the Good Samaritan story: **It's possible to have our beliefs right and still get love wrong.**

Knowing God's Word matters. But following Jesus means allowing what we believe to shape how we live. And sometimes the most meaningful spiritual opportunities begin with something very practical—a meal, a conversation, a helping hand, or a willingness to show up.

- **Where do you see a gap between what Christians say they believe about loving others and how we sometimes live?**
- **Can you think of a time when a practical act of kindness opened the door to something spiritually significant?**

TAKE A STEP

We were challenged to move from simply recognizing needs to responding with compassion.

Notice the person. Ask God to help you see the people around you—not just their circumstances, but their value and potential.

Move toward the need. Compassion often requires interrupting our plans, stepping outside our comfort zones, or crossing a barrier we would normally avoid.

Put love into action. Don't stop at feeling concerned. Look for something practical you can do.

MY STEP THIS WEEK

Who is someone in my life whose needs I may have noticed but haven't responded to?

What is one specific action I can take this week to demonstrate compassion toward that person?

It might mean offering practical help, initiating a difficult conversation, encouraging someone who's struggling, giving generously, or simply being present. Share your step with the group. ***Be ready to share how it went when you gather next week.***

ONE DAY TO FEED THE WORLD

FROM GIVING TO LIVING GENEROUSLY

This Sunday, October 18, was our **One Day Collection Sunday!**

Over the past few weeks, we've been challenged to determine what we earn in one day, dedicate that day to others, and give that day's income through our partnership with Convoy of Hope. We've also been encouraged to wear our One Day stickers as a way to start conversations about generosity, faith, and why we're participating. Now that we've brought our gifts together as a church, let's take a moment to reflect on the experience.

One Day was never meant to be only about collecting an offering. It's about allowing God to grow compassion in us and move us toward people who need help and hope.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- **What was your experience with One Day this year? Did dedicating a day or making a sacrifice change how you thought about generosity?**
- **Did wearing your sticker create any conversations about what you were doing, your church, or your faith? What happened?**
- **Colby shared stories of lives being changed through Convoy of Hope. What stood out to you, and how did those stories affect the way you viewed your own participation?**

LOOKING AHEAD: OCTOBER 25

Next Sunday, we'll celebrate what God has done through One Day! As a group, let's remember that the impact of generosity goes beyond the amount collected. It's found in people receiving food, families experiencing hope, communities being strengthened, and opportunities for people to encounter the love of Jesus. But it's also found in what God is doing in us.

The goal isn't simply to participate in a generosity campaign once a year. It's to become people who live generously all year long. As you prepare for next Sunday's celebration, consider: **How can the compassion we practiced through One Day become part of how we live every day?**

CARE & PRAY

Before you close, take time to notice what's happening in one another's lives.

- **What are you carrying right now that you need this group to know about or help you carry?**
- **How can we specifically pray for or support you this week?**

Take time to pray specifically for one another.

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for seeing us with compassion and responding to our greatest need. Thank You for the ways You've cared for us, provided for us, and shown us grace. Forgive us for the times we've noticed people hurting but chosen to keep moving. Give us eyes to see people the way You do and hearts that are willing to respond. Thank You for what we were able to be part of through One Day. Use those gifts to bring food, hope, and lasting change to people around the world. And don't let our compassion end with this campaign. Help us become people who move toward the hurting, cross barriers, and put Your love into action every day. Amen.

A NOTE FOR GROUP LEADERS

You don't need to get through every question. **Shepherd people, not the guide.** If a meaningful conversation develops, stay there.

This week, make room for people to reflect on their One Day experience. Some may have meaningful stories about wearing their stickers, conversations that opened up, or what God taught them through giving. Others may not have participated, and that's okay. **Keep the conversation invitational, not evaluative.**

Your separate *One Day to Feed the World Group Guide* has been leading toward this moment: **sharing the stories and celebrating what God has done.** You can use its October 18 and October 25 sections alongside this discussion, but there's no need to duplicate the questions.

As you prepare for the October 25 celebration, encourage your group to look beyond the offering total and consider the lives being impacted—and how God may be changing their own hearts in the process.

Remember: Groups aren't just places where we talk about following Jesus. They're places where we help one another actually follow Jesus.

As you leave tonight, consider: **Who needs encouragement, care, or a personal follow-up this week?**