



SHOW NOTES FOR COMPASSION

PART I

Define Compassion:

Give some examples of what you think it looks like to show Christ-centered compassion to others?

Without doing some "research" see if you can list five to ten instances in the bible when God and/or Jesus demonstrated compassion to someone.

Spend a few moments when someone showed compassion to you. What impact did that have on your life?

Spend this week asking God to show you examples of how He is showing compassion around you in the world. Seeing Him work is the start of being a Christian man who shows compassion.

PART II

If you had to list the three or four biggest barriers to showing compassion to others, what would your list look like?

Why do you think Jesus was so compassionate? What was His motivation for responding to people with such compassion?

Do you want to be a man who lives out a Christ centered masculinity? I bet you do. I also bet you want others to see you in a similar light. With this in mind, how have you modeled Christ's compassion in the last few weeks or months? Think about ways on which you have responded to people in your life with compassion.

Spend some time in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to work within you to make your heart more compassionate toward others. Think about this idea of imitating Jesus in all you do. Focus on reframing your responses to others in light of being an imitator of Jesus.

Part III

Jesus obviously loves all people equally. But why do you think Jesus was so drawn to the poor, the outcast and the sick? As a man seeking to pursue a Christ-centered masculinity, describe your attitude toward these same people. Does your attitude match up with Jesus' attitude?

What keeps you from being as generous to those in need as you could (or should) be? Don't just pass this question over. Stop and think about your response.

God has entrusted His message and ministry to you. That's part of what it means to be a Christ-follower. If we believe this, then we must believe that God uses us to accomplish His will. What if you saw every needy person as someone whom God has allowed to intersect with you just so that you might meet his or her needs in His name? What if you saw yourself as God's plan to show compassion to those in need? How would that change the way you engage with the poor and the outcast?

Ask God to convict you of any un-Christlike attitudes toward the “least of these”. Ask Him to begin to grow in you a heart for the needy and a desire to be a messenger of God’s compassion.

Part IV

God sees every single one of our flaws in full view. Think about every single way you fall short of God’s standards. Every sin. Every shortcoming. Every weakness. God sees them all AND STILL, in His grace and mercy, He sent His Son to pay the penalty your sins rightfully earn for you, just so He might be in relationship with you. If that is the attitude God has taken with us in full view of all of our sins, what do you need to do to change your attitude to be sympathetic toward the difficult people in your life? Think and pray about the answer to this question as you go throughout your day.

Part V

Why is it difficult for us to always know how to meet the needs of those who are hurting?

Has someone ever shown you compassion when you were hurting from a loss or a tough setback? What is the individual actually do to show you compassion? How did it make you feel?

Is there anyone hurting in your life right now? What practical thing can you do right now to show God’s compassion to this person? What will it take for you to follow through and actually do it?

Pray that God would show you people who are hurting and that He would give you the strength and awareness to reach out to them. Pray that He would help you overcome the awkwardness that can be admittedly be associated with this type of situation. Remember, you are Christ's representative in this world. Showing compassion to the hurting is one way you live out a Christ-centered masculinity.

Many men struggle with being compassionate. It's just how we are wired.

What did you learn about compassion that was completely new to you?

Were there concepts that you hadn't run-in to before?

How did this concept make you feel?

What thoughts did it cause you to consider?

FIRST, grab a Bible or a Bible app and turn to Colossians chapter 3. Anytime we read the Bible, it's important to place the passages in the context of the big picture story of the Bible. Here's what that looks like for this passage:

- Who Wrote It? The Apostle Paul identified himself as the author of Colossians.
- When Was It Written? Most people believe Colossians was written sometime between A.D. 61 and 63, during Paul's first imprisonment in Rome (Acts 28:17-31).
- Why Was It Written? Ultimately, this letter's purpose is to emphasize the supremacy of Christ over everything.

NEXT, read Colossians 3:5-17, paying close attention to verses 12-14. Paul does something here that he does often. Here we see Paul contrasting a life lived apart from God with a life lived in relationship with God. Verses 5-9 paint the picture of what it looks like to live as someone who does not know God. In verse 12, Paul transitions to what it looks like to live as people who love God and seek to have this love expressed in their every day lives, especially as it pertains to living alongside other Christ-followers.

Note that as Paul makes this transition, the first thing he mentions is the word compassion. It serves as a powerful intro into the entire section. Compassion is the foundation of everything Paul says here. Let's see how we can apply this as men seeking to model Christ's sense of compassion by discussing these following questions:

- Paul is using a little bit of a metaphor in this passage that can be hard to pick up at times. He is suggesting that as new creations in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17), that we have a new wardrobe. We "put on" these characteristics like we might put on a coat. So the idea is that people see us and

they see these characteristics as something that is a part of us. Quick question: do people look at your life and see these characteristics as a daily part of life that you “wear around”?

- Paul does something interesting here. In verses 12 and 13 Paul puts the emphasis on us being patient and forgiving with others. He doesn't ask us to wait until those things are shown to us. What does that tell us about how we're supposed to treat the people we do life with?
- As a man, what does it look like to have a compassionate heart? How does this practically look in your life? How does it affect the world around you, such as your family, your co-workers, or your friends?
- How do you come to grips with the fact that as a man, having a compassionate heart may be something that is challenging for you? How do you begin to grow in Christ-likeness in this area in your life if it's something you're not naturally inclined to do?

FINALLY, one of the most important things to remember is that compassion is all about how we treat others. It's uniquely about showing real care and concern for those in need.

William Barclay says this:

- “It is most significant to note that every one of the virtues and graces listed has to do with personal relationships between man and man. There is no mention of virtues like efficiency, cleverness, even diligence and industry—not that these things are not important. But the great basic Christian virtues are the virtues which govern and set the tone of human relationships. Christianity is community.”

As we seek to be men who practice a Christ-centered masculinity, compassion toward others is something that we simply must have. As much as any aspect of our characters, we imitate Christ when we care for those who most need it. Compassion and patience and understanding may be hard for us to practice. But as individuals seeking to become the man God intends us to be, we have to strive to be men of compassion.

Part of being the man God made us to be is being a person who takes action. The Challenge is about highlighting one practical, actionable thing you can do to put what you've learned into action.

YOUR CHALLENGE FOR THIS WEEK IS THIS:

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR SOMEONE IN NEED (THEY ARE ALL AROUND YOU, SOMETHING YOU'LL REALIZE WHEN YOU'RE INTENTIONAL ABOUT LOOKING FOR IT). WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER THEM, EXPRESS COMPASSION BY MEETING THEIR NEED PATIENTLY AND WITH MUCH CARE. IF YOU HAVE THE CHANCE TO SHARE YOUR FAITH WHILE DOING SO, EVEN BETTER.

YOU HAVE THE CHANCE TO BE A MAN WHO MODELS CHRISTIAN COMPASSION TO THOSE IN NEED AROUND YOU. YOU CAN'T IMAGINE HOW BADLY OUR WORLD NEEDS THIS! FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THIS CHALLENGE THIS WEEK AND SEE HOW GOD WILL USE YOU TO IMPACT THOSE YOU COME IN CONTACT WITH.