



The Week of November 21, 2021
The Compassionate Life
Conversation Guide

This Week's Take-Aways

- **I am generous:** (Luke 6:38) I give freely of what God has given to me. I invest in the ministry of the church locally and globally. I seek to meet the needs of those around me, sharing what God has given me.
- **I show great compassion:** (Psalm 82:3-4) I actively show my caring for those who are vulnerable in real and tangible ways.
- **I engage in the missionary task wherever I am:** (Matthew 28:18-20) Through both my words and actions, I engage in gospel conversations with those around me. I take the gospel around the world by going, giving, praying and sending others.

Intro Questions

- What is the most generous gift you've ever received? Given?
 - Who is the most generous person you know and why?
 - Is it better to give than receive?
- What is your favorite way to serve others?
 - How do the holidays open up avenues for serving others?
- Who was the first person to share the gospel with you?

Give Generously

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that was given to the churches of Macedonia: During a severe trial brought about by affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. I can testify that, according to their ability and even beyond their ability, of their own accord, they begged us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in the ministry to the saints, and not just as we had hoped. Instead, they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us by God's will.

- What was the motivation behind the Macedonians generosity?
- Did they give out of their surplus or was their gift a sacrifice for them?
- What can we learn about generosity from their example?

2 Corinthians 9:6-12

The point is this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. Each person should do as he has decided in his heart – not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work. As it is written:

*He distributed freely;
he gave to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.*

Now the one who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will also provide and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God through us. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

- What are the characteristics of generous person?
- What do you think is meant by “cheerful giver”?
- How is thanksgiving to God a natural outcome of being generous?

Malachi 3:10

Bring the full tenth into the storehouse so that there may be food in my house. Test me in this way,” says the Lord of Armies. “See if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing for you without measure,

- Note: This is the only time that God tells people to test Him.
- When we give back to God, He promises to bless us. Is this blessing always financial?
- How have you seen God bless you for your faithfulness in being generous?

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth, but on God, who richly provides us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do what is good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share, storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of what is truly life.

- What instructions is Timothy to give to his church about how to live their lives?
- What areas are you succeeding in and in what areas do you have room for growth?

Romans 12:6-8

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

- Does this mean that if your spiritual gift isn't generosity, we don't have to give? Look at the other gifts in this passage- they are things we are ALL called to do some just have special gifting in these areas.

Serve Sacrificially

Matthew 25:31-46

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate them one from another, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me; I was in prison and you visited me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and take you in, or without clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick, or in prison, and visit you?'

"And the King will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

"Then he will also say to those on the left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels! For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink; I was a stranger and you didn't take me in; I was naked and you didn't clothe me, sick and in prison and you didn't take care of me.'

"Then they too will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or without clothes, or sick, or in prison, and not help you?'"

"Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'"

"And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." "

- Make a chart and list out the characteristics of the sheep and the goats.
- What should be the goal of our service to others? To feel better about ourselves or is there more to it?
- Why should we want to do something good for Jesus?
- Why is serving others a natural outgrowth of loving God?

James 1:27

Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

- Why does James call this "pure and undefiled religion"?
- What are our modern-day equivalents of "orphans and widows?"
- What are some ways you, your family or your Group could serve these people?

Share Boldly

Matthew 9:36-38

When he saw the crowds, he felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest."

- Why did Jesus feel compassion for the crowd?

Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- What is Jesus asking us to do?
- By whose authority and power are we asked to do it?
- What is His promise to us?
- How is compassion tied to disciple-making?

Next Steps

- Pray about how you, your family and/or Group can be a part of Season of Compassion.
- On December 19, Pastor David's message will be a special presentation of the plan of salvation! Start praying now about who you can invite to church with you on the 19th and/or to Nights of Wonder on December 23 & 24.