

Qualities That Attract People to Jesus

The Power of Compassion

I. Introduction

A. Luke 10:29-37 ²⁹But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰Jesus replied and said, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead. ³¹And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, ³⁴and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.’ ³⁶Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers’ hands?” ³⁷And he said, “The one who showed mercy toward him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do the same.”

1. Compassion opens up people’s hearts like nothing else really can!

II. Why some people don’t have a lot of compassion

A. They were living in, and/or are living in, a defeating home or work environment.

B. They have an unhealthy pace of life.

C. They are living with no “boundaries” in their care-giving to others.

D. They’ve gone too long without a fresh experience of God’s compassion.

1. We are supposed to be conduits of God’s love, not reservoirs!

2. Matt. 18:23-34 ²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.’ ²⁷And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay back what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you.’ ³⁰But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. ³¹So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. ³²Then summoning him, his lord said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.”
3. Are you _____ satisfied _____ with how much compassion for others you have today?

III. Conclusion

(Unless otherwise indicated all Scripture verses are in the New American Standard version.)