5 Day Devotional: The Difference One Person Can Make

Day 1: Seeing Is Not Enough **Reading: Luke 10:25–37** **Devotional:** The priest saw the wounded man. The Levite saw the wounded man. The Samaritan saw the wounded man. Three men. The same sight. Three completely different responses. Seeing a need and responding to a need are not the same thing. We live in an age of unprecedented awareness. We see suffering on screens, in headlines, and in the faces of people around us daily. Yet awareness without action is just observation. The Samaritan's compassion was not measured by what entered his eyes but by what moved his feet. Today, ask God to close the distance between what you see and what you do. **Personal Reflection:** Think of someone you have noticed recently who may be struggling. What has kept you from stopping? What would it cost you to stop?

Day 2: The Interruption Is the Ministry **Reading: Mark 10:46–52** **Devotional:** Jesus was surrounded by a crowd and moving with purpose when a blind man named Bartimaeus cried out from the roadside. The crowd told him to be quiet. Jesus stopped. What the crowd called a distraction, Jesus called an appointment. Throughout the Gospels, some of the most significant moments in Jesus' ministry happened not in planned gatherings but in unplanned interruptions. A woman reached through a crowd and touched His garment. A tax collector climbed a tree just to see Him pass. Jesus never treated the person in front of Him as an inconvenience. He modeled a life where the interruption often was the mission. **Personal Reflection:** When someone or something interrupts your plans today, what is your first internal response? Frustration? Inconvenience? What would it look like to receive interruptions as divine appointments?

Day 3: Compassion That Costs Something **Reading: Luke 10:33–35** **Devotional**: The Samaritan's compassion was not cheap. He gave his time, his oil, his wine, his transportation, his money, and his word to return. True compassion is rarely free. It costs something. It costs comfort when we enter into someone else's pain. It costs time when we stop moving long enough to listen. It costs pride when we help someone others have overlooked. Biblical compassion is not a feeling that stays safely inside the heart. It is a force that moves through the hands, the feet, and the wallet. As the sermon reminds us, the Samaritan did not merely feel sorry for the wounded man. He acted. Feeling and doing are not the same thing. **Personal Reflection:** Is there an area of your life where you have felt compassion for someone but stopped short of acting on it? What was the cost you were unwilling to pay?

Day 4: Because He Stopped for Us First **Reading: Romans 5:6–8** **Devotional:** Romans 5:8 reminds us that while we were still in our sin, Christ died for us. We were the ones lying beside the road, broken, helpless, and unable to rescue ourselves. Jesus did not pass by. He did not cross to the other side. He came toward us. He saw our condition fully and was not deterred by what He saw. He bore the cost of our healing completely. This is the foundation beneath every act of Christian compassion. We do not stop for others because we are naturally generous or unusually patient. We stop because we have been loved by the One who stopped for us when we had nothing to offer in return. **Personal Reflection:** Sit quietly with the truth that Jesus saw you at your worst and moved toward you anyway. How does that reality change the way you view the people around you who are difficult to love?

Day 5: Go and Do Likewise **Reading: James 2:14–17** **Devotional: James** asks one of the most searching questions in all of Scripture: what good is faith without action? The Good Samaritan parable ends not with a theological discussion but with a command. Jesus does not say go and believe likewise. He does not say go and feel likewise. He says go and do likewise. James echoes this same truth by pointing out that faith which produces no visible action is not living faith at all. The sermon's closing challenge is worth carrying into every day: Who do I need to see? Where do I need to stop? What is compassion asking me to do? When will I do it? These are not rhetorical questions. They are a way of life. **Personal Reflection:** Looking back over this week, where did you have an opportunity to stop for someone? Did you take it? If not, what will you do differently next time that moment arrives?