

Be Different Part 2: Who Cares?

Objective: To challenge us to take the time to truly care about what matters to others. .

Read together:

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. 9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. 11 They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.

I Peter 3:8-11

Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another.

Romans 12:15-16

- According to the sermon this week, sympathy is "*choosing to care about whatever others are going through.*" Based on that definition, are most people that you know sympathetic? What's the evidence for your answer? Based on that definition are YOU sympathetic? Would others agree?
- Why do you think we find it so hard to truly care about what others are going through? Have you ever heard phrase "compassion fatigue?" It's defined as "feeling as though you have no more empathy left to give." Why do you think it is on the rise in our culture?
- One of the biggest hindrances to being sympathetic is that we are unwilling to pay the price of time. Why are we willing to give just about anything but our time to those around us?
- Do you find it easier to mourn with those who mourn or to rejoice with those who rejoice? Why do you think that is?
- Read the following statements:
 - If you cannot mourn with those who mourn, you lack *compassion*.
 - If you cannot rejoice with those who rejoice, you lack *maturity*.

Do you think those statements are true? Why or why not?

- What is one thing you can do to grow and show sympathy for those you encounter on a daily basis?

Final Thought: This week you will encounter people who are mourning and people who are rejoicing. As you encounter each, what can you do to answer the question "Who cares" with a sincere, "I DO!"

