

Be Different Part 4: Moved

Objective: To challenge us to be intentional about taking action to meet the needs we encounter.

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

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Matthew 9:36-38

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. 6 Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. 7 As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give."

Matthew 10:5-8

- Have you ever experienced "gut wrenching" concern or sorrow for someone else's circumstances? What caused that reaction? Was it the circumstance? Was it the relationship with the person? If so, how did you react to that feeling, what did you do about it?
- The pastor said that true compassion *always* moves us to action. That action can be divided into three activities: Praying, Going (personally engaging), and Serving. Which of these do you think is the easiest to do? Which is the hardest? Why do you think so?
- Have you ever promised you would pray for a need and then forgot all about it? How does that make you feel? Why do you think we find it so easy to promise to pray but then fail to do it?
- Have you ever tried to avoid 'getting involved' in someone else's problems because they were too complicated? Why do you think we tend to do that?
- When it comes to compassion, which do you think is easier to give, your time or your money? Why is that?
- When you think about the needs of the people you live with, work with or worship with, what do they need the most? What can you do to serve them?
- If it's true that compassion *always* moves us to action, could you be described as a compassionate person or not?

Final Thought: All around us are people with significant needs. Though the needs are different they all need someone to reach out with compassion. What can you do this week to begin to grow your compassion for others?

