



### **Discussion Starter**

1. In the New Testament, the term “felt compassion” is a translation of the Greek term, *splagchnizomai*, meaning to be moved as to one's bowels<sup>1</sup>. In ancient times, the bowels were thought to be the seat of love and pity. What are some experiences and issues that stir your bowels, or arouse compassion in your heart?
2. How have you responded to people and situations that move your heart? Have others benefited from your action? Elaborate.

### **Compassion Makes the Difference**

1. Share something that resonated with you during the *Compassion Makes the Difference* message.
2. Which comes first- serving others or compassion? Does compassion precede acts of service, or vice versa? Explain your position and share examples.

---

<sup>1</sup> "G4697 - splagchnizomai - Strong's Greek Lexicon (NASB)." Blue Letter Bible. Accessed 8 Nov, 2017. <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strong's=G4697&t=NASB>

**Biblical Connection**

1. Read Matthew 9:9-13. Based on your observations how did compassion impact Christ's interactions with others? How did a lack of compassion impact the Pharisees' response to Christ's actions?
2. Read and summarize Matthew 9:35-38. Additionally, note anything that stands out to you in this passage.
3. Compassion not only involves deep sympathy or sorrow for others, it also involves a desire to alleviate others' misfortune or suffering.<sup>2 3</sup> Consider Matthew 9:12-13, 36. Why did Jesus feel compassion toward the people he encountered? What did He desire to alleviate?
4. Colossians 3:12 instructs us to put on a heart of compassion. Describe the mandate given in each passage listed below. Additionally, note potential responses to each based on an individual's compassion quotient.

Scripture Reference	Potential Responses	
	Heart of Compassion	Heart Without Compassion
<b>Matthew 5:13-16</b> <u>Mandate:</u>		
<b>Matthew 28:19-20</b> <u>Mandate:</u>		
<b>Acts 1:8</b> <u>Mandate:</u>		

<sup>2</sup> Dictionary.com

<sup>3</sup> "G1656 - eleos - Strong's Greek Lexicon (NASB)." Blue Letter Bible. Accessed 8 Nov, 2017. <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongsg=G1656&t=NASB>



- Read Acts 2:44-47 and Galatians 6:10. In addition to having compassion for unbelievers, we should also have compassion for fellow believers. Do you intentionally look for ways to serve members of the local church? Explain why or why not. If applicable, share ways you're currently serving and/or showing compassion toward fellow believers.

Earlier, you responded to the question - Which comes first- serving others or compassion? While there is no right or wrong answer to that question, we should note that Jesus felt compassion **as** He went about the Father's business. Sometimes we may fail to share our faith and serve others around us because we don't presently *feel* a strong sense of compassion. Sometimes compassion follows service and acts of obedience to God's instructions. Subsequently, compassion becomes a catalyst to further service.

- Can you recall a time you served others and/or met someone's need? If so, recount the experience. Share how you felt after the experience and whether the experience was a catalyst for further service?

### **Moving Forward**

Intentionally put on a heart of compassion. On the chart below, identify needs that you can meet in each area listed. Commit to serving others in each area.

Area of Service	Specific Acts of Service
The Bridge	
Your Neighborhood/Local Community	
National or Global Impact	

### **Assignment**

- Throughout the next week, read and meditate on Matthew 9:36-38 and John 4:34-36. Pray that God will send more laborers to The Bridge. Commit to getting in the game if you aren't currently serving at The Bridge.
- Listen to any messages from the All In series that you feel you may need to review. Note anything that resonates with you in preparation for the Week 11 discussion.

