



# COMPASSION

*living proof of a loving God*

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## Living Proof of a Loving God

Pastor Jeremy McGarity

"But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.'"

LUKE 19:8 | NIV

### I. WHY COMPASSION MATTERS

**1** Because God commands us to care.

"You obey the law of Christ when you offer each other a helping hand."

GALATIANS 6:2 | CEV

"Love your neighbor as yourself."

MARK 12:31 | NIV

**2** Because it proves we follow Jesus.

"Jesus said, '(I came) not to be served but to serve others ...'"

MARK 10:45 | NLT

"I've given you an example to follow: do as I have done to you."

JOHN 13:15 | NLT

**3** Because real love demands it.

"Our love should not just be words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action."

1 JOHN 3:18 | GNT

"You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate."

LUKE 6:36 | NLT

- We can't do everything ... but, we can do something .

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Because we are blessed .

- *Every number has a name, every name has a story and every story matters to God.*

"I will bless you ... and you will be a blessing to others."

GENESIS 12:2 | NCV

"Much is required from those to whom much is given, for their responsibility is greater."

LUKE 12:48 | LB

"The person who continues to study God's perfect laws ... will be blessed. People like that don't merely listen and forget; they actually do what God's laws say."

JAMES 1:25 | GW

"Use every chance you have for doing good ..."

EPHESIANS 5:16 | NCV

"God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything you need and more so that there will not only be enough for your own needs but plenty left over to give joyfully to others."

2 CORINTHIANS 9:8 | LB

## II. OUR COMPASSION PLAN

- Help hurting people.

"For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. 36 I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'

Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'"

MATTHEW 25:35-40 | NLT

NIV = NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION, CEV = CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION,  
NLT = NEW LIVING TRANSLATION, GNT = GOOD NEWS TRANSLATION,  
NCV = NEW CENTURY VERSION, LB = LIVING BIBLE, GW = GOD'S WORD.

## Small Group Questions

- 1** Share one thing that stood out to you in this week's sermon and why?
- 2** The Bible has more than 90 specific references to compassion. Compassion is what moved Jesus to action. **With Jesus being the ultimate example, on a scale of 1-10, how compassionate are you?**
- 3** Think of some people you know who are in need. **Why are you compassionate to some of them and not to others? What tends to keep you and/or others from being compassionate to them?**
- 4** Who is one of the most compassionate people you know and why do you think so? How does that inspire you?
- 5** How can we be praying for you this week?