



HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart

A painting depicting a scene of compassion. A man in a white and gold robe, likely a priest or minister, stands over a man lying on the ground. The man on the ground is wearing a white shirt and has a pained or distressed expression. The background is a simple, outdoor setting with a green field and a blue sky.

**SHOWING
COMPASSION**



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11/01/23

Showing Compassion

Luke 10 25–37



“All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.” Tertullian, an early church theologian, boasted in one of his works that this statement of Jesus had become a fact. Even their enemies, writes Tertullian, marveled: “look how they love one another.”

Cont. to Next Page....



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Think of a Christian you consider compassionate. What stands out to you about that person? Personal Reflection. Who has shown you compassion? Praise God for that person's grace in your life.

Cont. to Next Page....



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Unfortunately the church has not always been marked by compassion and self-sacrifice. Far too often we speak of love but fail to back our words with deeds of kindness and mercy. We need to drink deeply from the simple but profound message of the story of the good Samaritan. Its familiarity has so weakened its impact that it is seen as an exception rather than the norm for the citizens of the kingdom of God. As you read this passage, imagine that you are hearing it from Jesus himself for the first time. Read Luke 10:25–37.



Cont. to Next Page....



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- 1. In your own words recount the context and the content of this parable.**
- 2. What do you learn in verses 25–29 about the expert in the law?**
- 3. The expert in the law quotes from Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18. How do these two commands summarize the essence of what God desires in our lives?**
- 4. In reply to the question “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus tells a story (vv. 30–35). Describe a modern-day equivalent of this incident.**
- 5. Suggest possible reasons why the priests and Levites may have passed by on the other side.**
- 6. What are some ways we tend to pass by those in need?**
- 7. Describe the Samaritan’s involvement with the man from the moment he sees him (vv. 33–35).**

Cont. to Next Page....



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8. Considering the racial and religious tensions that existed between Jews and Samaritans, why is the response of the Samaritan particularly surprising?

9. How have you personally been involved with people who are hurting financially, emotionally, physically or socially?

10. How does the extent of the Samaritan's involvement compare with most attempts we make to help needy people?

11. How has the story of the good Samaritan challenged the lawyer's understanding of "love your neighbor as yourself" (vv. 36–37)?

12. What things keep you from not only seeing but also acting in response to the needs of those around you?



Cont. to Next Page...



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HOW CAN YOU BEGIN TO BE MORE OF A NEIGHBOR TO THESE PEOPLE? PRAY THAT GOD WOULD SHOW YOU ONE PERSON WHOM YOU CAN LOVE AS A NEIGHBOR THIS WEEK.

NOW OR LATER

READ MATTHEW 25:31-46. WHAT LIGHT DOES THIS PASSAGE SHED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF LIVING COMPASSIONATELY?



*Rev. Dr. Major Stewart, Pastor
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