

WEEK 6 — Acts of Compassion and Self-Giving

Day #2

Our humanity comes to its full bloom in giving. We become beautiful people when we give whatever we can give: a smile, a handshake, a kiss, an embrace, a word of love, a present, a part of our life...all of our life.

~ Henry Nouwen

Prayer: *Beautiful Jesus, show me your desires for my life. I am listening.*

Read: *Mark 5:25-34; Colossians 3:12-17; Romans 2:4*

Reflection:

- In what ways did Jesus demonstrate kindness? What was the result of his act(s) of kindness?
- How does Paul describe kindness in *Colossians 3*? How important is it to the life of a Christian?
- How does God “use” kindness in *Romans 2:4*?
- Are you kind?

Today’s Act of Kindness:

Be intentional about kindness today. Make it a mindset. Think about the people around you. Don’t overthink or overcomplicate it. Just be intentionally kind.

Pray:

Talk with God about what you heard in the scriptures. Ask God to make you more aware of those around you. Confess areas of weakness and selfishness.

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Day #3

You probably would admit that you love Jesus – even if just a little. But do you love like Jesus loves? Are you more concerned for yourself than others?

~ Scot Longyear

Prayer: *Selfless Jesus, open my heart to the scriptures. Show me your desires for my life. I am listening.*

Read: *Luke 10:25-37; Proverbs 3:27-29*

Reflection:

- Why did Jesus tell this parable?
- Why was Jesus’ answer challenged?
- Do you see yourself in this parable? If yes, who are you?
- Are you willing and available to live out this parable? Are you a “neighbor” to those who are suffering?

Today’s action of Kindness:

This evening we are filling blessing bags for the homeless. It is a small gesture for those who are suffering. Yet, it shows that they are seen. In what ways will you “see” someone today? How will you enter in to someone else’s pain or suffering?

Pray:

Talk with God about your fears or complacency. If necessary, ask God to give you courage so you can live out Jesus’ desire for you to be a good neighbor.

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Day #4

When Jesus came to Earth, He not only lived with us, but He joined in our suffering. Even though Jesus was without sin, He experienced the sting of ridicule, the pain of death and the emptiness of abandonment. He entered not only our world but also our suffering.

~ Scot Longyear

Prayer: *Suffering Jesus, show me your desires for my life. I am listening.*

Read: *Isaiah 53:1-12; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7*

Reflection:

- How does Jesus demonstrate kindness, love and compassion?
- Why do you think he suffered?
- How does Jesus’ suffering inform us? How will we respond to Him?
- How should we use our suffering to minister to others?

Today’s Act of Kindness:

Many will serve the students at Orange County Academy. Many of the children have endured suffering and experienced many hardships. Today they will have an Easter egg hunt, a wonderful homemade lunch and interact with volunteers who share Jesus’ love with them.

Pray:

Talk with God about what you heard. Ask God to lead you in whatever ways God might be calling you to respond. Confess your resistance to the Holy Spirit. Pray for the children at OCA.

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Day #5

Incarnation took Jesus to the last breath of self-donating love. And if we intend to follow him, we can expect that truly 'loving our neighbor as ourselves' will take up to depths of self-donating love. In those depths we are in the heart of worship.

~ Adele Ahlberg Calhoun

Prayer: *Incarnate Jesus, show me your desires for my life. I am listening.*

Read: *Matthew 8:1-11*

Reflection:

- How does Jesus demonstrate compassion in these two stories? How are they the same? Different?
- Why do you think Jesus touched the leper? Why do you think Jesus did not touch the Centurion's servant?
- Look up the definitely of "incarnate." Why is this an important part of Jesus demonstrating his love?

Today's Act of Kindness:

Over 30 people from our church will minister to the homeless today. Love will be demonstrated, the homeless will be touched, and lives will be changed in the name of Jesus. An extravagant act of worship and servitude, will be shown through the washing of feet.

Pray:

Talk with God about what you heard. Ask God to lead you to those to whom he wants you to minister. Even though you may not know them today, pray for those you will minister to in the future.

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Day #6

Christ is still longing to touch this suffering world through the compassion of his church and his apprentices are people of compassion. They know how to look for pain in the eyes of others. They know that labels don't help people change. They believe that love always has hands and feet.

~ Adele Ahlberg Calhoun

Prayer: *Longing Jesus, show me your desires for my life. I am listening.*

Read: *John 13:1-17*

Reflection:

- How does Jesus demonstrate compassion in this story?
- Why do you think Jesus did this?
- Is there a lesson that you can apply to your life?
- How is Jesus calling you to demonstrate compassion? To whom? Where? When?

Today's Act of Kindness:

Today, be kind to yourself. Rest in God's love. Remember what Jesus has done for you. Be thankful for God's extravagant compassion and kindness.

Prepare to celebrate the risen Christ tomorrow in worship. Come to thank God with your church family, with one voice. And come to worship with an expectant heart, waiting to hear from him personally!

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

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Day #1

People we may discriminate against, He (Jesus) invites to dinner. People we avoid, He invites to the party. Clearly Jesus loves by not discriminating.

~ Scot Longyear

Prayer: *Loving Jesus, show me your desires for my life. I am listening.*

Read: *James 2:1-13; Mark 2:13-17*

Reflection:

- What did James, the brother of Jesus, reveal to you about favoritism, judgment and partiality?
- What do Jesus' actions teach you about compassion and kindness?
- What do these scriptures teach you about the message of the gospel?
- How will you apply these scriptures to your own life?
- Is there a way you can become more involved in the lives of the poor in our community?
- Do these scriptures affect or change your thoughts about the poor?

Today's Act of Kindness:

Serving dinner to those who are residing at the Orlando Union Rescue Mission. Those in residence are single women and men, and families.

Pray:

Talk with God about what you heard. Ask God to lead you in whatever ways God might be calling you to respond. Confess areas of favoritism and self-righteousness.