

what the
world needs

show empathy

June 9, 2024

James 2:14-16—*What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?*

Ephesians 2:8-10—*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO CARE?

1. Empathy cares.

Luke 10:25-33—*On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him."*

2. Empathy cares deeply.

Luke 10:34—*He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.*

James 1:27—*Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress...*

3. Empathy cares sacrificially.

Luke 10:35-37—*“The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”*

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All verses quoted in New International Version unless otherwise noted.

Rewatch today’s message online at bcachurch.com/messages.

STUDY GUIDE: 6/9/24

Begin your group with prayer. Have one or two people share a testimony from their week. Keep it positive and reflect on the good things God has done.

STUDY QUESTIONS

Read and discuss all of the scriptures from this week's message. Then, answer the following questions.

1. What does empathy mean? How does it differ from compassion? Both are character traits of Jesus. Why are they so important for us to emulate if we are to LiveLoveLead like Jesus?
2. What is the central message of James 2:14-16? What does God expect from us?
3. Read Ephesians 2:8-10. What are the two different meanings of "good works" in this passage? How do we apply this to our daily lives?
4. Read and discuss the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. What does it say? What does it mean? What does it mean to me?
5. Pray as a group that God will use each of us to show greater compassion and empathy to others in need.