



RADICAL LOVE AT WORK

3. COMPASSION IN A ME ME ME WORLD



Introduction

Can you recall a time when someone was kind to you at work?

What happened and how did it impact you?



Big Picture

Compassion in a selfish world stands out and distinguishes us in the world.



Bible Passage

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.'

Luke 10:25-27

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 travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.

Luke 10:29-33



Key Truths

1. The answer to the question “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” is to love God and love others – it is principally about those outside of myself. What a contrast to the original question which is about *me*.
2. The priest and the Levite refuse to love the beaten man. Did they have good reasons not to stop? Probably. If the half-dead man was to become all-the-way-dead, both would be ceremonially unclean (though there were provisions in the law for this sort of occasion). If they stuck around, they too may meet the same fate.
3. However, neither man is commended for not stopping – they are clearly meant to be scandalous examples of how being religious has no impact on their behaviour. Whereas the Samaritan has great reasons for not stopping – this is a hated Jew after all. But he still has compassion on the beaten man.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

Me! Me! Me!

We live in a truly selfish time, but so did Jesus. Loving God and loving others has always been an ideal we all struggle to keep. The way the Samaritan loves the beaten man is radical and extravagant then and now. He bandages the man, cleans him up, makes sure he is looked after – spending his time and money to care for him.

Our expectations for others are extremely low when it comes to having compassion for others. Instead, we expect each other to put ourselves first – we marvel at examples of humans being kind, there’s a whole genre of social media devoted to it. Loving others as Christians can and should, will stand out.



Application (cont)

“Go and do likewise.” (Luke 10:37) Jesus calls those who Love God to show compassion in the same radical way. What could it look like to have compassion for others at work?

I know of one worker who goes out of their way to help others meet their deadlines, particularly if they are stressed or if their own work is done for the day. How do you think their colleagues respond to that kind of compassion?

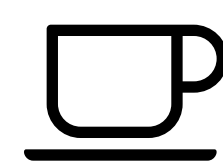


Prayer

Pray for creative ways to show practical, radical, costly compassion with your colleagues.

Remember

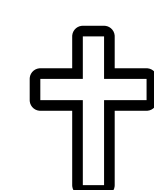
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