

C3 LEADERS' QUESTIONS
F2022-WEEK 9
10/30/22

Getting Down to Business:

The following questions are following this format: Scripture/Observation, Application, and Prayer (SOAP).

1) Scripture/Observation:

- A. Read Colossians 3:12. Why do you think the challenge to be compassionate is described as “clothe yourselves with compassion”?

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. (Colossians 3:12 NIV)

Social Duties Within Christian Community (3:12-4:1)

There is a natural break in the text at 3:12 (clearly marked by “Therefore”), a shift from negative to positive exhortation. There also is a subtle shift in contents: from exhortations respecting personal morality to a depiction of social duties within Christian community.

The first arena of application is the church. As head of his body, Christ is Lord of the church. Members of the church thus are to reflect his lordship in their relationships with one another and in their corporate witness before the world. If indeed Christ is all, and is in all (v.11), then Christians ought to reflect his image. “Clothe yourselves,” the apostle exhorts (v.12), with the virtues Christ manifested. (Asbury Bible Commentary, accessed 10/21/22, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=colossians+3&version=NLT>)

- B. Read Matthew 9:36. How is alert observation involved in Christ-like compassion?

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. (Matthew 9:36 NLT)

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The motivation for Jesus' sending out of the Twelve is found in 9:35-38: his compassion for the needy crowds. Jesus has compassion for them because of their miserable condition. Like sheep without the protection of a shepherd, they are harassed (i.e., tormented) and helpless (i.e., cast down, as wounded or dead, and thus unable to help themselves) in the face of evil and destructive forces (10:7-8; 11:2-6). This is a graphic description of all those who are outside of Christ... (Asbury Bible Commentary, accessed 10/22/22, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+9&version=NLT>)

- C. Read Matthew 14:10-14. Why does Christ-like compassion involve looking beyond self?

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

13 As soon as Jesus heard the news, he left in a boat to a remote area to be alone. But the crowds heard where he was headed and followed on foot from many towns. 14 Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. (Matthew 14:13-14 NLT)

In response to Israel's sinful rejection, Jesus repeatedly withdraws from them (14:13; 15:21; 16:4). Nevertheless, he graciously continues to bring wholeness to the people, healing and feeding them (14:13-21, 34-36; 15:29-39). (Asbury Bible Commentary, accessed 10/22/22, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+14%3A13-14&version=NLT>)

- D. Read Matthew. 14:18-19; Luke 7:13, 10:33-34. What types of action does Christ-like compassion involve? (Hint: feeding the hungry, comforting the hurting, binding up the wounded)

18 "Bring them here," he said. 19 Then he told the people to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he gave the bread to the disciples, who distributed it to the people. (Matthew 14:18-19 NLT)

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When the Lord saw her, his heart overflowed with compassion. "Don't cry!" he said. (Luke 7:13 NLT)

"Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. (Luke 10:33-34 NLT)

For commentary on Mt. 14:18-19 see question C above.

Luke 7

V 11–16: DEATH DEFEATED Jesus raises from the dead the son of a widow at Nain. The people fear and glorify God. They proclaim Jesus as a 'great prophet', and note that 'God has visited His people'. (Bible Panorama commentary, accessed 10/22/22,

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+7&version=NLT>)

Luke 10

V 29–37: NEIGHBOUR'S NEEDS Jesus tells about the caring Samaritan, who goes to the help of a needy and injured victim of robbers, after two religious Jewish men fail to help him. The Samaritan also provides for the man's future care. Jesus teaches that anyone in need is our neighbour, and that we should all do 'likewise'. (Bible Panorama commentary, accessed 10/22/22,

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+10&version=NLT>)

2) Application:

- A. Read Philippians 2:3-8. Explain how we can display Christ-like compassion that looks beyond self.

3 Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. 4 Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. 5 You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. 6 Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. 7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, 8 he

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*humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.
(Phil. 2:3-8 NLT)*

Philippians 2

V 1–4: LOVING LOWLINESS Selfishness and strife is to be rejected as, through the fellowship of the Spirit, God's love in Christ makes Christians humble, like-minded, and causes them to care for others. **V 5–11: LIFTED LORD** This like minded humility to be sought was exemplified by Jesus in His incarnation and death for us. Although He was God by nature, He humbled Himself, through becoming a man and a bondservant, to the very lowest point of death on the cross. This resulted in His exaltation to the very highest place in heaven. Humility produces elevation, by God's grace. (Bible Panorama commentary, accessed 10/22/22, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Phil.+2%3A3-8+&version=NLT>)

- B. Read Colossians 3:12. Explain whether you believe Christ-like compassion is a choice or a responsibility?

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. (Colossians 3:12 NIV)

For commentary on Colossians 3:12 see question A above.

3) Prayer: As you pray, ask God to work on your heart and mature your faith in Christ to further develop your compassion for others by giving you opportunities to put Christ-like compassion into action.

14 What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? 15 Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, 16 and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day;

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stay warm and eat well”—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? (James 2:14-16 NLT)