

STUDY GUIDE: Our Great Exchange

week #4 | Compassion

November 17-23

This in-depth video-based study explores why our almighty God entrusts us to be managers of - and collaborators in - his restoration project

INTRODUCTION

Compassion is more than a feeling we have for people. It requires our talents, skills, and intellect. And sometimes, because we tend to identify compassion with only our feelings, it's possible at times to think we are helping when in fact we might be making things worse. To be truly compassionate, our hearts must work in harmony with our heads and our hands. In short, the feeling of compassion must never be simply an emotion - it must take form in flesh and blood.

CHAT

- What stood out to you from this week's video?
- What's your gut reaction to this idea of compassion?
- Are there people for whom you feel true compassion as they described? What does that look/feel like?
- Do our intentions play a role in how effective our acts of compassion are? What can affect our intentions?

READ & DISCUSS

Mark 1:40-45

A little background on Mark:

Author - John Mark, Son of Mary of Jerusalem, cousin of Barnabas, missionary companion of the apostle Paul and later companion to the apostle Peter.

Audience he wrote to: A suffering church - perhaps in Rome during persecutions by Nero (AD 64)

Key Themes:

1. The Kingdom of God
2. Jesus the authoritative Christ and Son of God
3. Jesus the Servant
4. A Call for Cross-Bearing Discipleship

- How does this information help deepen our understanding the story of Jesus and the Leper?
- How did Mark draw out some of his favorite themes in this story?
- Considering His audience why might this story and Jesus' response be particularly impactful?
- What makes you indignant? Are you willing to engage in the situation? Have you ever been bold enough to stand alongside the suffering?

READ & DISCUSS

1 John 3:16-18

- Are we in the habit of giving compassionately? What does that look like practically in our lives?
- “To know love is to experience Christ’s death by sacrificially loving others. Knowledge of God’s love is expressed and verified through giving ourselves and our “material possessions” to those who need them.”
- Are you comfortable with giving to the point of sacrifice? How does this confront our American ideology?

APPLY

This week who needs you? Who do you drive by or see at work or live across the street from that you feel compassion for? Is God calling you to act on that compassion? To offer your relationship? your touch? your attention? Who needs you?

Will you be bold enough to engage?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

