

COMPASSION – an introduction

For the next 5 weeks you are invited to explore Jesus' teaching from the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10. 25 – 37).

It is highly relevant to the world we live in where people can struggle and suffer in so many ways:

- spiritually - as they search for purpose, guidance and direction;
 - socially – many are lonely, many have problems with relationships;
 - emotionally – depression, grief, stress, anxiety;
 - physically – health, food, clothing, housing as well as poverty, disability, illness ...
- the list could just carry on.

It is highly relevant to our culture which encourages us to be more interested in things than people, in money rather than relationships and 'me' more than 'us'.

It is highly relevant to the church. Fewer people understand the Christian gospel today. When we act with compassion people have a greater understanding of the difference Jesus makes. This can lead to sharing Jesus, the journey of discipleship and worship.

It is highly relevant to who we are designed to be. We are made to love and be loved. We are made for relationship with God, each other and the world. As we learn to love our neighbour we become more human, which is another way of thinking and becoming more like Jesus.

The programme:

January 10th The call to compassion

January 17th The character of compassion

January 24th The motivation for compassion

January 31st Giving with compassion

February 7th Compassion for the world

Quotations:

I shall pass this way but once; any good that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being let me do it now.

Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again. (Etienne de Grellet)

Not all of us can do great things.

But we can do small things with great love. (Mother Theresa)

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. (Jesus. Matthew 25. 35,36)