

Crossroads Daily Guide
Week of September 11
What the World Needs Now
Week 1: Compassion



From the very beginning of his ministry Jesus made it clear that his whole life was dedicated to both receiving and giving compassion. And not only that, he called his followers to dedicate their lives to the same mission. The reason Jesus was so intent on receiving and giving compassion was because he knew at a very deep level that compassion, forgiveness, service and wisdom are the core elements of love that the world needs most.

In that light we are intentionally focusing our attention this week on what the world needs now by giving our attention to compassion.

Compassion has two parts – compassion for self and compassion for others. The two go hand and glove together. The scriptures and reflections this week offer us direction and inspiration as to how we can both receive and give compassion.

The reflections are also sent out as daily texts to your phone each morning at 7am. If you are not signed up to receive the texts, you can do so by texting – Crossroads - to 41411. These texts will inspire you to live more fully in the ways of Jesus' compassion for yourself and others, even your enemies.

Sunday, September 11, 2016

Luke 4:18-19 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners, and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Reflection: Jesus' mission statement was all about compassion. He knew what the world needs most. He knew that compassion is for both self and others. Practice both today.

Monday, September 12, 2016

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ.

Reflection: Today be kind and compassionate to self and others in the same way that God is kind and compassionate to you. Pray for guidance to practice what Jesus taught.

Tuesday, September 13, 2016

Colossians 3:12-14 Therefore, as God's choice, holy and loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Be tolerant with each other and, if someone has a complaint against anyone, forgive each other. As the Lord forgave you, so also forgive each other. And over all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

Reflection: There is not a soul, including yourself, that does not deserve compassion. Today, above all things, receive God's love for self and then share it with others.

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Matthew 7:12 Therefore, you should treat people in the same way that you want people to treat you; this is the Law and the Prophets.

Reflection: Jesus told us to offer compassion to others in the same way we want it. Compassion is a necessity. Give the same compassion to others that you seek for self.

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Galatians 5:22 ...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this.

Reflection: The Apostle Paul said compassion looks like patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control. By practicing these things, you are changing the world.

Friday, September 16, 2016

1 Peter 3:9 Don't pay back evil for evil or insult for insult. Instead, give blessing in return. You were called to do this so that you might inherit a blessing.

Reflection: Jesus calls us to be compassionate with both our self and our enemies. Today practice compassion by resisting pay backs and instead offering a blessing.

Saturday, September 17, 2016

Zechariah 7:10 Make just and faithful decisions; show kindness and compassion to each other! Don't oppress the widow, the orphan, the stranger, and the poor; don't plan evil against each other!

Reflection: The prophet Zechariah tells us that compassion takes intentionality. Today, intentionally show compassion through acts of kindness to someone who is struggling.