

15. Christ showed compassion for the untouchable

Matthew 8:1-3 - When Jesus came down from the mountain, large crowds followed Him. And a leper came to Him and bowed down before Him, and said, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

A person with active leprosy was considered unclean and untouchable. He was required to remain a safe distance from other people. He was required to live alone, away from other people.

How did Jesus show compassion to the man with leprosy?

What people might be considered "untouchable" in our culture today?

How can we demonstrate compassion to those people?

Lord, please fill me up with Your love so that I can minister to others without any trace of fear or reluctance. Let Your love flow through me so that I can selflessly, willingly minister to those who are considered outcasts in my community. Let them find healing in You.

16. Christ showed compassion for the unlovable

Luke 19:1-10 - He entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man called by the name of Zaccheus; he was a chief tax collector and he was rich. Zaccheus was trying to see who Jesus was, and was unable because of the crowd, for he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree in order to see Him, for He was about to pass through that way. When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house." And he hurried and came down and received Him gladly. When they saw it, they all began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

As a tax collector, Zaccheus would have been despised by the people because he collected taxes from them for the Roman government, and became rich in the process.

How did Jesus show compassion to Zaccheus?

How did Zaccheus respond?

According to His own words, what was Jesus' mission?

What kind of people are considered unlovable or despicable in our culture today?

How can we demonstrate compassion for them?

How can God use our acts of compassion to bring them to into a relationship with Christ?

Lord, help me to love the unlovable and despicable, demonstrating that love in practical ways. Use my acts of mercy and compassion to bring them into a relationship with Christ.

17. Jesus showed compassion for the unrepentant and undeserving

John 5:6-17 - When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition, He said to him, "Do you wish to get well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Get up, pick up your pallet and walk." Immediately the man became well, and picked up his pallet and began to walk. Now it was the Sabbath on that day. So the Jews were saying to the man who was cured, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not permissible for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "He who made me well was the one who said to me, 'Pick up your pallet and walk.'" They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Pick up your pallet and walk?'" But the man who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away while there was a crowd in that place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you." The man went away, and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working."

How did the man who was healed demonstrate an unrepentant heart?

How did Jesus show that He had compassion for him in spite of his unrepentant heart?

Who is there in your life that you consider to be unrepentant and undeserving of kindness and compassion?

How can you demonstrate kindness and compassion to that person?

Remember: Showing kindness and compassion to someone who has wronged you doesn't make them right. What it does do is put you in a right relationship with God.

Lord, please give me the grace I need to show kindness and compassion to _____.