



...when (Jesus) saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

Matthew 9:36 NKJV

Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up... **Acts 3:6-7**

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" **Mark 1:35-37**

Don't be misled. Remember that you can't ignore God and get away with it. You will always reap what you sow! Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful desires will harvest the consequences of decay and death. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.

Galatians 6:7-8

VAMPIRE 3: The Overly Needy

Opening.

What we continue to learn as Christ followers is to have a heart full of compassion for those who are in need and fulfill God's divine call to help people in need, but we also need to learn about overly needy people who may intentionally or otherwise suck the joy from our service.

Outline.

- **THE TENSION.** Read Matthew 9:36.
The phrase *moved with compassion*: from the intestines or bowels; sympathy; inward affection, tender mercy. But how did Jesus live in the tension of having compassion without being overburdened by the needy.
- **JESUS CARED MORE THAN ANYONE WHO HAS EVER LIVED.**
The Lord Jesus did everything He can to help people in need; but He never allowed Himself to be manipulated by the needy, instead, He dealt with the root issues in their lives so they can be free from the cycle of neediness.
- **JESUS DID NOT HEAL EVERYONE OR GRANT EVERY REQUEST.**
It is interesting how Jesus did not heal all sicknesses and diseases. That wasn't His mission to begin with. His primary mission is to restore mankind's broken relationship with God, and not to heal all illnesses.
- **HELPING WITHOUT ENABLING.**
The Lord never bragged about how he helped the needy. He even taught His disciples to not let their left hand know what the right hand is doing (Matthew 6:3).

Lessons.

- 1) **OFFER WHAT THEY NEED NOT WHAT THEY WANT.** Read Acts 3:6-7.
 - Identify the real need.
 - Pay attention to actions, not words.
- 2) **SET HEALTHY BOUNDARIES.** Read Mark 1:35-37.
 - Time boundaries
 - Resource boundaries
- 3) **ALLOW THEM TO LEARN AND FACE THEIR CONSEQUENCES.** Read Galatians 6:7-8.
 - Rescuing isn't always helping.
 - Jesus is the savior, not you.

Questions.

1. What about giving to the homeless? Won't they just squander it on booze or drugs?
2. People are calling our church office wanting help. They might be sincerely in need but they may be running a scam. Do we help them or not?
3. Whose role is it to help the needy, the government's or the church's?
4. What's the best way for us as a church to help one another in times of need?