

# *SOLID-*

## *Showing Compassion*

Unfortunately the church has not always been marked by compassion and self-sacrifice. Far too often we speak of love but fail to back up our words with deeds of kindness and mercy. We need to drink deeply from the simple but profound message of the story of the good Samaritan. Its familiarity has so weakened its impact that it is seen as an exception rather than the norm for the citizens of the kingdom of God.

- What stands out about people we consider to be compassionate?

### **Luke 10 : 25-37**

- In your own words recount the context and the content of this parable.
- What do we learn in verses 25-29 about the expert in the law?
- The expert in the law quotes from Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18. How do these two commands summarise the essence of what God desires in our lives?
- Suggest possible reasons why the priests and Levites may have passed by on the other side.
- What are some of the ways we tend to pass by those in need?

- Describe the Samaritan's involvement with the man from the moment he sees him (vv. 33-35).
- Considering the racial and religious tensions that existed between Jews and Samaritans, why is the response of the Samaritan particularly surprising?
- How does the extent of the Samaritan's involvement compare with most attempts we make to help needy people?
- How has the story of the good Samaritan challenged the lawyer's understanding of "love your neighbour as yourself" (vv. 36-37)?
- What things keep us from not only seeing but also acting in response to the needs of those around us?
- How can you begin to be more of a neighbour to these people?

#### Summary:

Confronting the needs of others often brings out various attitudes in us. Jesus used the story of the good but despised Samaritan to make clear what attitude was acceptable to Him. If we are honest, we will often find ourselves in the place of the expert in the law, needing to learn again who our neighbour is. Whatever our situation, there are needy people close by and there is no good reason for refusing to help them.

#### Verse to remember:

I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples. ~ John 13:34-35