

life matters

Practicing Compassion

Vol. 15, No. 2

a publication of

Life Matters
WORLDWIDE

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Jesus' disciples had a lot to learn. About a hungry crowd, they said, "Send them away." About a desperate mother: "Send her away." To parents with children, in effect: "Take them away!"

Perhaps they were at a loss for knowing what people needed, or how to help. Maybe they were simply annoyed.

In contrast, a deep pity moved Jesus to acts of mercy on behalf of the lost. The object of His compassion was people – those who knew they had problems and those who were oblivious to them. His objective was complete restoration.

While not everyone responded in faith, He graciously served.

His compassion met both immediate and eternal needs – problems such as hunger, sickness, and sin. While laying out hard truths about God's kingdom, Jesus did not neglect other human needs. He served the whole person.

As they followed Him, the disciples witnessed first-hand how perfectly Jesus expressed His Father's compassionate nature. They heard Him say, "I feel compassion for them" and watched Him do something about it. In the course of

their training, Jesus directed them to perform lowly acts of service for others.

Pro-life ministries reflect Jesus' spirit of compassion. They serve the whole person: body, mind, and spirit. Pregnancy care centers (PCCs) "suffer alongside" those caught in the web of sexual immorality, unwanted pregnancy, and abortion.

LIFT volunteers "suffer alongside" the dying and chronically ill.* Meanwhile, the world offers counterfeit solutions that lead to death.

Clients may not know it, but they visit a PCC because they have a spiritual problem. Staff members gently confront the choices and behaviors that lead to sexually transmitted infections or abortion. They provide free ultrasound screenings, baby furnishings, and emotional support while pointing clients to Jesus Christ.

Physical, emotional, and social problems confirm the reality of the Fall. Whether it's an unplanned pregnancy or terminal diagnosis, God often uses a crisis to draw attention toward Himself.

Only one Savior frees from sin. Caring for people who experience problems may give us an opening for sharing that Good News.

Evangelism goes hand-in-hand with compassion. It's not enough to educate people about abortion, or hold their hands as they weep. They may still be lost in sin. That's why true compassion ministries point toward Jesus Christ – the source of ultimate transformation and hope.

*If you've been moved
by the beauty and completeness
of Jesus' compassion, if your life
has been touched by its power...
show it!*

**Jesus still prepares His
followers for service.**

ARE YOU READY?

*The word *compassion* is from the Latin for *suffer with or together*. LIFT stands for Living In Faith Together. To learn more about this and other pro-life ministries, visit LifeMattersWW.org.

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