

# COMPELLED TO CARE

*“Responding to the Needy”*

*1 Peter 2:21 (nkjv) For to this you were **called**, because Christ also **suffered** for us, leaving us an example, that you should **follow** His steps.*

Key words: *called* - *suffered* - *follow*. Greek: ‘called’ is **“kaleo.”**

Meaning: **‘being destined, summoned, commissioned to a divine purpose.’**

Jesus suffered death so we can live to follow His example.

A follower of Jesus lives out the character, purpose and legacy of the ‘One’ they follow.

**A true follower of Jesus cares for what Jesus cares for.**

A passion for Jesus creates in us a passion for the lost, sick, poor and the needy.

***Luke 4:18** (niv) The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed.*

***Luke 19:10** (niv) For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.*

We have been called, commissioned and summoned to care for those in need.

How we respond matters deeply to the poor, needy, marginalised and to Jesus.

Where we live should not determine **if** we live but it does determine **how** we live!

What should our response be to help those in need who can't help themselves?

**Are we motivated by a 'holy discontent' that propels us into action?**

Compelled to care, the Bible calls **compassion**.

Greek: Compassion is likened to having a **gut-wrenching pain**.

It is like having an **"intense pain deep within us."** Like a forceful blow to the stomach.

**Jesus was a man 'full' of compassion.**

Jesus was compelled to care with healing, grace and mercy.

*Matthew 9:36 When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*

**14:14** *When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, He had **compassion** on them and healed their sick.*

**15:32** *Jesus called His disciples to Him and said, "I have **compassion** for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way."*

Jesus responded with compassion, **He personalised** their need and became involved.

**What is our response to people suffering or experiencing injustice?**

**Point:** The closer we get to Jesus the more we will care for the things that He cares for.

**The opposite is also true:** The further we get from Jesus the less we care about the things He cares about!

**Cultivating compassionate hearts.**

**How can we expand our hearts to care for more than ourselves?**

Expanding our hearts always starts with what we choose to see.

***Proverbs 31:20 (amp)*** *She opens her hand to the poor, yes, she reaches out her filled hands to the needy (whether in body, mind or spirit).*

**There is one distinctive characteristic of Jesus' ministry.** It's His incredible ability to bring good news to poor souls by removing barriers to social status.

**As a church, we are to be Jesus to the society and world around us!**

**People knew Jesus saw beyond their label.**

He was moved with compassion to call life from death, hope from despair and friendship from isolation. He was compelled to care.

***Psalms 147:3*** *He heals the broken-hearted and **binds** up their wounds.*

Jesus built a community which was inclusive and not exclusive, a community motivated by love, hope and faith.

**This is what church should look like to the world.**

**We can't fix every problem - but the ones we can - we must!**