

A Heart of Compassion

Max Wilkins, The Family Church, Gainesville, Florida

1. Jesus came to show us a heart of compassion, a heart that was constantly identifying with the least, the last and the lost of our world.
 - a. Jesus said repeatedly, "Follow Me." He means for us to incorporate serving others as He did. He cared about children, widows, orphans, sinners, the sick ... everyone. And so should we.
2. Jesus was born into poverty; His friends were mostly the outcasts of society. He grew up in a land that was run by a nation other than His native people.
 - a. The Son of God, a Man who had created the world and humankind, humbled Himself to be a mere carpenter, in a poor and oppressed town. He left heaven to be on this earth for our sakes — He left perfection to dwell with us.
 - b. Since He, the Son of God, came down to dwell with humans and serve us, how much more should we emulate Him and reach out to others? He came as an example of love. **Philippians 2:1-4**
3. We have to make a conscious effort to follow Jesus. We have to be listening to Him to know His voice.
 - a. So what is God calling you to do?
 - b. Jesus' followers will be out serving others, never realizing they are serving the Lord Himself. Jesus tells His followers that in their service to others, they are in reality serving Him. How incredible it is to serve our King! **Matthew 25:35-40**
4. Serving children is rewarding.
 - a. Children are easily pleased. It takes very little to make an impression in the life of a child. A story from Scott, visiting his sponsored child. *
 - b. You can affect children and change their world and yours in the process.
 - c. In ministering to "the least of these," you have the opportunity to make the biggest impact on the world.

* While visiting overseas, Scott gave his gum wrapper to a little boy, and he used it like a toy. The boy was content with a gum wrapper, where we would have needed a radio, a car, a game or something else to make us content. This little boy's contentment didn't come from the size or value of the gift, but from the value he placed on the giver of the gift.