



Jesus with Skin On

Be Willing to Notice the Need

¹⁴“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? ¹⁵Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶If one of you says to him, ‘Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” James 2:14-17



Engage

Has there been a time in your life when you have been in need and someone has come to your aid? If so, tell us about it. How did you feel before, after and while your need was being met?



Encounter

Why do you think that the Samaritan noticed the need, but the priest and Levite did not?

What does scripture tell us was the Samaritan's response when he saw then man in need?

What does it mean to take pity on someone?

How can having pity on someone help us see the needs in their life?

How did the Samaritan's noticing the need show what it means to “love God and love people”?

Where in Scripture including James 2:14-17 are we commanded to notice and meet the needs of others? What lessons do these passages teach us?



Express

Why do we avoid noticing the needs of people around us?

How might things be different in our world if Christ followers sought out the needs of people rather than avoiding them?

Is there someone in your life right now that you need to “notice” rather than avoiding the need?

Prayer: Spend and extended time in prayer asking for God to show you a need you can meet for the sake of Christ today. Ask God to make you sensitive and to give you new eyes to see the need.

²⁵On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

²⁶“What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

²⁷He answered: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”²⁸“You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

²⁹But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

³⁰In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³²So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two silver coins³ and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ ³⁶Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” ³⁷The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.” Luke 10:25-37