



MESSAGE SUMMARY

Mark 10:41-45; Luke 10:25-37

Mark 10 – we are to live different, be counter-cultural, not self-serving but serving others. And not just serving those who it is easy to serve, but becoming a servant of all, following the example of Christ.

The Other Side – we pass by on the other side, avoiding helping and serving our neighbour in need. There are many different reasons, but often it is an issue of priority.

The Messy Side – serving out of love is messy business, it is costly and never easy. We need to learn to embrace the mess, and head in with courage and wisdom.

The Heaven Side – very often we won't see the return of our serving here on earth. Have to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and His Kingdom, as that is when it will all become clear (see Matthew 25:31-40).

Compassion is the key word that distinguishes the Samaritan from the Levite and the priest. Compassion is a deep sense of love and care. The original word literally translates to 'movement in the inward parts'. It is a feeling that is always followed by an action. We need God to grow this within us; we love because He first loved us (see 1 John 3:16-18).

DISCUSSION

ICE BREAKER: Let's jump straight into it this week. We can serve without loving, but we cannot love without serving. Thoughts?

READ: Luke 10:25-27

- **Think of a time when you have 'passed by on the other side'. Why did you do this?**
- **How can we embrace the mess of serving those in our path who are in need? Do you tend to side more with wisdom (analyse the situation, count the cost, etc) or with courage (get in there, help immediately, work the rest out later)? How can we find a good balance here?**
- **How can we grow in compassion? Do we actually allow the pain and suffering in our world to move us to action?**

READ: Matthew 25:31-46

- **What is confronting about this passage?**
Obviously the seriousness of serving the poor and needy, but also the people that Jesus says, 'whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me' – it is the sick, imprisoned, naked, stranger.

READ: 1 John 3:16-18

- **We know love! How can we continually remind ourselves of the Gospel? These verses shows how key it is.**
- **"Let us not love in word or talk, but in deed and in truth". What is one thing you can do this week to serve out of love for your neighbour in need?**

PRAY: Pray that God will continue to reveal the love of Jesus to us. Pray that God would give us courage and wisdom as we walk the path of life, and that we would have compassion that moves us to action.