

Thank you...Jason Guifarro  
Speaker for today

**The “Golden Rule”**

*“In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets”*

**Matthew 7:12**

**December Birthdays**

17 Bill Brown 18 Alexis Brown 22 Elizabeth Medina  
31 Bob Pescador

**December Anniversaries**

18 Jim & Marie Burruss

**Regular Meeting Times**

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

**Website:**  
[indiochurchofchrist.com](http://indiochurchofchrist.com)

**Preacher: Vacant**

**Church of Christ**  
81-377 Ave 46  
Indio, CA 92201  
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

# Indio Informer

Vol. 35 No. 48

December 1, 2024

## The Need for Compassion

By Brian Mitchell

Let’s talk about the Case for Compassion. In doing so, I want us to consider an important question. In what ways have you, individually, or have we, collectively, shown compassion recently? Our first response would probably be – What do we mean by compassion? What is Compassion?

The Random House Unabridged Dictionary defines compassion as “a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering.” Compassion rises above how we feel about the situation of another, to what we do about their situation. In this sense it is much like love which entails doing whatever is in the best interest of the one to whom our love is shown.

How much sympathy or sorrow do we really feel for the misfortune of others? And a more important question—Do we really have a strong desire to alleviate their suffering? If you are anything like me, you will probably have to admit that our compassion level isn’t always what it needs to be. In fact, if we’re not careful, then our first response to the needs of others can often be rather cold – “Well, they did it to themselves.” Or, “It’s not my problem.” “They should have been more careful or responsible.”

Again, if you notice the definition, it doesn’t say anything about “the strong desire to alleviate the suffering of another” so long as they deserve it. Compassion is to be shown to all, regardless of whether they show any to us. Because Our God is a God of Compassion and He desires that we be as well. The Bible presents us with the picture of a God who is full of compassion and thus over and over calls upon us to be people of compassion—Exodus 34:6, Deuteronomy 15:11.

So, wouldn’t we agree that caring for the tangible needs of human beings is part-and-parcel of genuine Christianity? When action-

oriented compassion is absent, then it's a tell-tale sign that something is spiritually amiss. Uncaring and uncompassionate Christianity does not attract seekers into its fold. But a clear and consistent demonstration of Christ-like love is a powerful magnet that pulls people toward God.

Jesus illustrated the importance of compassion in one of His most famous stories—The Parable of the Good Samaritan. The story is found in Luke 10 and is so familiar to many of us. It's a story about a Jewish man who was walking from Jerusalem toward the city of Jericho. As he traveled along, some hoodlums and thugs robbed him and beat him up, leaving him half-dead in a ditch on the side of the road.

A short time later a Jewish priest came walking along, but when he saw the man, he moved to the other side of the road and passed by without slowing down. A little while later, another religious man, a Levite, came along. He too quickly passed by on the other side. Finally, along came a man from Samaria, and even though there was a lot of ethnic strife between the Samaritans and the Jews, this Samaritan felt compassion for the robbery victim and stopped to see how he could help.

After assessing the situation, the Samaritan knelt down over the man, cleaned and bandaged his wounds, lifted the man onto his donkey and took him to an inn. The Samaritan gave the innkeeper some money to take care of the man and said that if the care of the man ends up costing even more, he would pay the additional expenses when he came back through. In conclusion Jesus asked this question, *Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?* And he said, *"The one who showed compassion to him."* Then Jesus said to him, *"Go and do the same. May the same be said of us."*

### **James 2:18-26**

***"But someone may well say, 'You have faith, and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.'***

***You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.***

***But are you willing to acknowledge, you foolish person, that faith without works is useless?***

***Was our father Abraham not justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, 'And Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,' and he was called a friend of God.***

***You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. In the same way, was Rahab the prostitute not justified by works also when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead."***

### **"You're in our thoughts and prayers"**

This article is not to diminish in any way the importance and necessity of prayer, but to suggest that prayer alone is not all that is required of us. In James 5:16, we read, *"...pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."* Yes, we are to *"pray for one another"*, but we also have learned from James 2 regarding faith, that simply saying we have faith is one thing; acting on our faith is something entirely different. *"What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,'" and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself."*

Would we not agree that one point James makes is that saying we have faith is easier than actually demonstrating that faith by some action? And again, not to diminish the importance and necessity of prayer, would we not agree that it is so much easier to *"keep you in our thoughts and prayers"* than to visit the brother or sister, or provide for their needs in some demonstrable way. Someone has said, *"Actions speak louder than words"*.