



MORE THAN A CHECK

KEY SCRIPTURE | Mark 5:21–43

SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2017

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Let's say you're out for a walk and someone approaches you. They say they're homeless and need money to feed their family. What do you do?

Some would respond with "American compassion," shelling out whatever you can offer, whether it's a twenty or the change rattling around in your pocket, and then walk away, forgetting it happened. Some might respond with no compassion at all, refusing to give anything—either because you don't have it or because you don't trust what they'll do with it. And some would respond with biblical compassion, allowing the person to interrupt your plans and helping however seems most appropriate, whether that means offering cash, a ride, asking about their story, or maybe even asking them to be honest about how they'd use the money.

This isn't to say there's a "right" way to respond in this type of situation. It's going to be different for everyone, and it's going to depend on the specific circumstances. But taking an honest look at how you would respond can tell you quite a bit about the condition of your heart. Compassion stops us while everything else around us keeps moving. Do you make yourself available? Is your daily life interruptible? Are you tough and tender when appropriate?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Looking back at your notes from Sunday's message, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Is there a specific charity, cause, or injustice that's near and dear to your heart? Why?
3. Share about a time someone showed you compassion.
4. Do you have to understand what a person is going through to show compassion? Why or why not?
5. How would you have responded to the situation above? Read Mark 5:21–43. How do you think Jesus would have responded?
6. Think of someone in your life who is going through a hard time. How can you reach out in compassion?

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Find a tangible way to show biblical compassion this week.

