

# The Life Challenge

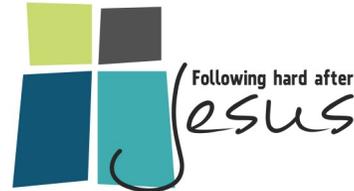
"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

**Title:** Why Compassion?

**Speaker:** Matt Ewert

**Text:** James 2:14-17

**Date:** April 23, 2017



## Discussion

On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your awareness of human suffering in the world, with '1' being lowest and '10' being highest? Is it something you feel you are knowledgeable about and consider often, or is it rarely something you think about?

Share why you think your response to the above question is what it is? If you think about human suffering in the world often, what do you attribute that to? If human suffering in the world is rarely on your mind, why do you think that is?

Read the story of the Good Samaritan, found in Luke 10:25-37.

- From this story, what do you learn about the Christian's call to compassion?

Read Matthew 25:31-46.

- What does this passage tell us in regards to our response to practical human needs?

***If the kingdom were wholly future, one might despair of accomplishing any justice now; if one supposed that it were wholly present, the realities of this age would quickly terminate disciples' illusive utopianism. But because the Gospels affirm that in Jesus the kingdom is present in a hidden way, believers in him can begin to make a difference in their world now, contending for the reality to be consummated at Christ's return.***  
—Craig S. Keener

In what ways have you, are you, or might God be calling you to participate in contending for His kingdom by working to alleviate human suffering in the world?

*There is a day when poverty will finally and fully end. A day when Jesus will return to bring about the new creation. He will wipe away every tear and God's people will spend eternity with Him (Rev. 21:1-4). It doesn't mean we stop trying to improve the here and now. But this is the hope we look forward to. This is the hope that has transformed the lives of hundreds of thousands of children through Compassion's ministry. Today they serve their communities and nations, in whatever circumstances God has placed them, fueled by the promise of the new creation to come.*

—Excerpt from Compassion Canada Website