

Compassion: Sensitivity to Needs

Series on Following God's Schedule

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Series: Following God's Schedule

- David was anointed to be king of Israel
- God did not reveal the schedule
- Wanted David to follow the schedule
 - Transition from Saul to David
 - David's training for kingship
 - Preparing the people to accept David as king
- God's schedule presented to David as series of preparatory and precursory events

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Series Introduction cont'd

- God's schedule presented to David as series of preparatory and precursory events
- His choices regarding the events determined
 - Following God's schedule or
 - Departing from God's schedule
- Discuss choices in the context of our relationship with God
- Based on Christ's teaching

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What We Will Learn

- Compassion: Sensitivity to need
 - Recognize the need
 - Care for the needy
 - Commit to providing for the need
 - Persevere in seeking to alleviate the need
- Important to following God's schedule
 - God associates reward with compassion
 - Directs person to the reward through call to compassion

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What We Will Learn cont'd

- David accepted calls to compassion and performed his responsibilities in the call
 1. Called to provide palliative care to Saul
 2. Provide factual report to father regarding brothers in battle at the Valley of Elah
 3. Remove Goliath's disgrace to Israel and lead Israel to victory over Philistines

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Sensitivity to Needs

- Attentive to events
- How people respond in the events
- Listening with intent to understand
- Hungry or thirsty person conveys the information through behavior
- Applicable to simple or complicated needs
- Matthew 25:35–36

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Matthew 25 (NIV)

35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,

36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

- Recognize and provide for the need

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Recognize and Provide Parable of Good Samaritan

- Priest and Levite recognized the need
- But turned away
- The Samaritan recognized the need
- Took full responsibility
- Persevered till the goal was accomplished
- Sensitivity to needs placed on your part is a key aspect of following God's schedule
- Luke 10:30-35

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Luke 10 (NIV)

30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.

31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.

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Luke 10 (NIV)

32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.

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Luke 10 (NIV)

34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.

35 The next day he took out two denarii 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.'

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Compassion in Following God's Schedule

- God associates compassion with righteousness
- Matthew 25:40

40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

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Compassion in Following God's Schedule

- God associates righteousness with reward
- Matthew 25:34

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

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Compassion in Following God's Schedule

- Places incremental accomplishments as rewards
- Directs person to each reward through a call to compassion
- Person earns reward by responding positively to the call to compassion
- Examples from David as king in waiting

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Sensitivity to Needs: Palliative Care for Saul

- David assigned to provide Saul palliative care
- Recognized when Saul needed care
- Played the harp to relieve Saul of evil spirit
- Saul retained David in his service and made him armorbearer
- 1 Samuel 16:19–23

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1 Samuel 16 (NIV)

19 Then Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep."

20 So Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them with his son David to Saul.

21 David came to Saul and entered his service. Saul liked him very much, and David became one of his armor-bearers.

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1 Samuel 16 (NIV)

22 Then Saul sent word to Jesse, saying, "Allow David to remain in my service, for I am pleased with him."

23 Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul, David would take up his lyre and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him.

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Sensitivity to Needs: Parent's Errand

- David's father sent him to visit brothers and bring back report of their condition
- Understood and wanted to complete errand
- David encountered Goliath while trying to complete his father's errand
- Encounter with Goliath led to key victory for David and growth of his reputation in Israel
- 1 Samuel 17:17–18

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1 Samuel 17 (NIV)

17 Now Jesse said to his son David, “Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp.

18 Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from them.

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Sensitivity to Needs: Motivations Against Goliath

- Saw Goliath’s defiance as disgrace to Israel
- Israel’s men forgot their relationship with God and were frightened of Goliath
- Need to kill Goliath
 - To remove the disgrace
 - And confirm Israel’s army as army of God
 - To advance name and image of God
- 1 Samuel 17:26

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1 Samuel 17 (NIV)

26 David asked the men standing near him, “What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?”

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What We Learned

- Compassion (sensitivity to needs) is important to following God’s schedule
 - Recognize the need
 - Do what you can to alleviate the need
- Christ’s teaching on sensitivity to needs
- David was sensitive to needs on his path
 - Saul’s need for palliative care
 - Father’s need for factual report about brothers
 - Need to remove Goliath’s disgrace and lead Israel to victory over Philistines

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