



Responsibility in Call to Compassion

Living in the Image of God
Module 02 Session 02

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What We Will Learn

- Call to compassion directs a person to provide goods or service to alleviate a need
- Recognize the need, care about the needy, commit to providing a solution, and persevere in seeking to alleviate the need
- God judges a person favorably or unfavorably regarding response in a call to compassion
- Beneficiary responsibility is to receive the provided goods or service with appreciation

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Call to Compassion

- God directs a person's attention to a need
- Expects the person to recognize the need
- Care about the needy
- Commit to providing as he/she can
- And persevere in seeking to alleviate the need
- God judges the call recipient favorably for completing his/her responsibilities
- Or unfavorably for declining

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The Sheep and the Goats

- Christ uses parable to explain human responsibility in a call to compassion
- Links a need to the goods and service provided to alleviate the need
- Links completion of a call to favorable judgment before God
- Links call refusal to unfavorable judgment
- Matthew 25:35–36 and 42–43

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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.'

- I placed a need on your path and you did what you could to alleviate the need

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Matthew 25 (NIV)

42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,

43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

- I placed a need on your path but you declined responsibility to alleviate the need

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Completion

- Recipient of a call provides goods and service to alleviate the need
- Described in terms of basic needs
- Completion requires linking the Need through Care to the Goods and Service Provided to alleviate the need
- Recognize need ↔ Care about the needy ↔ Provide Goods+Service to alleviate the need

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Refusal

- Recipient of a call declines the call
 - Refuses to recognize the need; or
 - Recognizes the need but does not care; or
 - Recognizes, cares, but does not commit; or
 - Recognizes, cares, commits, but does not persevere
- Refuses to do what he/she can to alleviate a need that God has placed on his/her path

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Judgment for Completion

Matthew 25:34

“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.

- God judges favorably a person that he sees as “completes responsibilities in a call to compassion”

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Judgment for Refusal

Matthew 25:41

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

- God judges unfavorably a person that he sees as “declines responsibilities in a call to compassion”

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What We Learned

- God uses call to compassion to direct a person to provide service at a point of need and earn blessing
- Assigns a person into one of two categories
 - Completes responsibilities in a call to compassion
 - Declines responsibilities in a call to compassion
- Judges a person favorably or unfavorably depending on the categorization

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Responsibility in Call to Compassion

Living in the Image of God M02S02

The parable of the Sheep and the Goats explains human responsibility in a Call to Compassion and describes God's judgment regarding performance of the responsibility. He assigns every person to one of two categories based on completing or declining such responsibility. He judges favorably a person that completes and unfavorably those that decline. A person earns blessing for completion or incurs punishment for declining.

In a Call to Compassion, God directs a person's attention to the need of others and expects the call recipient to recognize the need, care about the needy, commit to providing a solution, and persevere in seeking to alleviate the need. Christ provides formal teaching in two parables to explain what God expects from us in a Call to Compassion. The parable of *The Good Samaritan* (Luke 10:30–35) uses an example to explain human behavior in a Call to Compassion. Furthermore, the parable of *The Sheep and the Goats* explains human responsibility in a Call to Compassion and describes God's judgment regarding performance of the responsibility. God judges a person favorably for completing his or her responsibility in a call to compassion or unfavorably for declining.

We discuss the parable of the Sheep and the Goats in this bible study and the parable of the Good Samaritan in a future study to expand our understanding of human responsibilities in a call to compassion.

Parable of The Sheep and the Goats

Christ uses the parable of the Sheep and the Goats to explain human responsibility in a call to compassion and how God judges performance of the responsibility. He uses the parable to establish a clear link between the **need** in a call to compassion and the **goods and service** provided to alleviate the need. For example, the statement "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat" [Matthew 25:35] establishes a link between hunger for nourishment and something to eat provided to alleviate the hunger. Similarly, the parable links the need of thirst to something to drink provided, the need of being a stranger to provided shelter, the need for clothing to provided clothing, sickness to looking after the sick, and being a prisoner to visiting the prisoner.

By linking each need with the goods or service provided to alleviate the need, Christ explains the meaning of completing responsibility in a call to compassion. To understand the explanation, each of the statements in this section of the parable [Matthew 25:35–36] can be paraphrased as follows: I placed a need on your path and you did what you could to alleviate the need. The need could be basic, as the examples used in the parable, or more complex, like the need of the man beaten by robbers in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30–35).

Completing the Responsibility

Completing responsibility in a call to compassion means the recipient does what he or she can to provide goods and service to alleviate the need. In the parable, Christ describes the need in terms of basic needs. However, the basic interactions are the same for all needs, ranging from basic to complex. Completion means linking the **Need** through **Care** to the **Goods and Service**

provided to alleviate the need. The link could be a sub-link in a complex chain or a simple link for a simple chain. In every case, the call recipient is to recognize need, care about the needy, commit to doing what he/she can, and persevere in seeking to provide goods and service to alleviate the need.

Refusal of the Responsibility

Refusal means the recipient of a call to compassion declines responsibility. The call recipient could decline by refusing to recognize the need (i.e., looking the other way and pretending he or she did not see). Or he or she recognizes the need but does not care; or recognizes and cares, but does not commit; or recognizes, cares, and commits, but does not persevere. That is, the call recipient refuses to do what he or she can to alleviate a need that God has placed on his or her path.

Judgment for Completion

God judges a person favorably that he knows as one that completes responsibilities in a call to compassion: "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' [Matthew 25:34]. You earn blessing every time you complete your responsibility in a call to compassion: "Do this and you will live" [Luke 10:28].

Judgment for Refusal

God judges a person unfavorably that he knows as one that declines responsibilities in a call to compassion: "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels' [Matthew 25:41]. You incur punishment every time you decline your responsibility in a call to compassion.

Summary of What We Learned

The parable of the Sheep and the Goats explains human responsibility in a Call to Compassion and describes God's judgment regarding performance of the responsibility.

He assigns every person to one of two categories based on completing or declining such responsibility. He judges favorably a person that completes and unfavorably those that decline. A person earns blessing for completion or incurs punishment for declining.