



## Call to Appreciation of Compassion

*Living in the Image of God Module 02 Session 08*

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## Living in the Image of God

- God creates every person to represent him in interactions with others
- Be for others what God would be for them if he lived with us in human form
- He provides resources for people to perform the responsibilities and blesses those that do
- Program seeks to understand the meaning, resources, and human responsibilities and benefits of *Living in the Image of God*

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## What We Will Learn

- When God calls a person to provide goods or services to benefit another
- He also calls the beneficiary to appreciate the act of compassion
- Appreciation initiates the long-term benefits of human service
- Motivates the receiver to hunger and thirst for righteousness
- Receiver motivates others that motivate yet others
- In an infinite network of provider-receiver relationships

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## Call to Compassion and Appreciation

- Call to compassion: God directs a person to provide goods or service to benefit another
- Establishes provider-receiver relationship
  - Provider responsibility: recognize, care, commit, and persevere
  - Receiver responsibility: appreciate the act of compassion
- Promise of blessing for completing responsibility and promise of punishment for declining
- Matthew 25:34–36 and 41–43

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## Matthew 25 (NIV)

### Promise of blessing for compassion

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.’

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,

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## Matthew 25 (NIV)

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.’

- Promise of blessing for completing responsibility in a call to compassion
- Same promise of blessing for completing responsibility in the complementary call to appreciation
- Both calls are important to God’s plan for distributing human service to points of need

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### Matthew 25 (NIV)

Promise of punishment for declining a call to compassion

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.

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

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### Matthew 25 (NIV)

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.’

- Promise of punishment for declining responsibility in a call to compassion
- Same promise of punishment for declining responsibility in a call to appreciation
- Both calls are important to God’s plan for distributing human service to points of need

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### Provider-Receiver Functions

- Provider accomplishment
  - Alleviates the immediate need of the receiver
  - Sows seed for infinite chain of provider-receiver relationships
- Receiver appreciation initiates the infinite chain of provide-receiver relationships
  - Nurtures: hunger and thirst to do likewise
  - Initiates: doing likewise motivates another to do likewise and propagates the chain

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### Long-Term Benefits of Human Service

- Short-term benefit: provider alleviates the immediate need of the receiver
- Long-term benefits
  - Infinite chain of provider-receiver relationships
  - Incubated, birthed, and launched by receiver appreciation of the short-term benefit
- Receiver appreciation unlocks the long-term benefits of human service

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### Infinite Network of Provider-Receiver Relationships

- Receiver appreciation motivates him or her
  - To hunger and thirst for righteousness
  - And be sensitive to the needs of others
- Motivates him or her to accept and complete responsibility in a future call to compassion
- Thus, he or she motivates another that motivates yet another
- And so on—to a potentially infinite network
- “Go and do likewise” [Luke 10:37]

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### The Appreciating Receiver

- The appreciating receiver completes responsibility in a call to compassion
- Appreciation completes what God asks of the receiver (beneficiary) in a call to compassion
- The appreciating receiver nurtures, initiates, and propagates the long-term benefits of human service
- He or she is blessed as a link in an infinite network of provider-receiver relationships

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## A Taker of Human Service

- A *taker* of human service declines receiver responsibility in a call to compassion
- Receives but does not appreciate an act of compassion
- Human service *dies* in a *taker*.
- The *taker* earns a promise of punishment for declining responsibility in a call to compassion-appreciation

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## What We Learned

- When God calls a person to provide goods or services to benefit another
- He also calls the beneficiary to appreciate the act of compassion
- Appreciation initiates the long-term benefits of human service
- Motivates hunger and thirst for righteousness
- And sensitivity to the needs of others
- Receiver is motivated to accept and complete responsibility in a future call to compassion
- Motivates others that motivate yet others
- In an infinite network of provider-receiver relationships

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# Call to Appreciation of Compassion

## Living in the Image of God M02S08

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When God calls a person to provide goods or service to benefit another, he also calls the other to appreciate the act of compassion. Appreciation initiates a process toward realizing the long-term benefits of human service by motivating a hunger to be good to others, sensitivity to others' needs, and a disposition to accept and complete responsibility in a subsequent call to compassion. Thus, appreciation unlocks the long-term benefits of human service by empowering the receiver of an act of compassion to motivate self and others as the initiating link in a potentially infinite network of provider-receiver relationships.

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A call to compassion invokes a complementary call to appreciation. That is, when God calls a person to provide for the needs of another, he also calls the other to appreciate the act of compassion. Thus, a call to compassion establishes a provider-receiver relationship and assigns responsibility to the candidate provider as well as the candidate receiver. Your responsibility as the candidate provider is to recognize the need, care about the needy, commit to doing what you can, and persevere in seeking to alleviate the need. The receiver responsibility is to appreciate the act of compassion. That is, receive the provided goods or service with appreciation.

Appreciation initiates a process toward realizing the long-term benefits of human service. An act of compassion provides a short-term benefit of addressing the immediate need of the beneficiary and, in addition, sows the seed for long-term benefits that are dependent on the receiver's appreciation. By appreciating the act of compassion, the receiver is motivated to seek to be good to others and sensitive to their needs. As a result, he or she is motivated to accept and complete responsibility in a future call to compassion. By doing so, he or she motivates another that motivates yet another: in a potentially infinite network of provider-receiver relationships. Thus, appreciation motivates the receiver of human service to "go and do likewise" [Luke 10:37] toward fulfilling God's purpose for the distribution of human service.

This bible study focuses on understanding the relationship between compassion and appreciation in fulfilling God's purpose for provider-receiver relationships among people. Subsequent studies will discuss Christ teaching and other information in the bible to understand the role of appreciation in human interactions and relationships.

## Call to Appreciation

In a Call to Compassion, God directs a person to provide goods or service to benefit another. The call establishes a provider-receiver relationship and assigns responsibility to the candidate provider as well as the candidate receiver. As the candidate provider, your responsibility is to recognize the need, care about the needy, commit to doing what you can, and persevere in seeking to alleviate the need. The receiver responsibility is to appreciate the act of compassion. That is, receive the provided goods or service with appreciation.

**BLESSING OR PUNISHMENT** God's promise of blessing for completing responsibilities in a call to compassion (Matthew 25:34–36) applies to the provider as blessing for compassion and to the receiver as blessing for the appreciation of compassion. Also, his promise of punishment for declining responsibilities in a call to compassion (Matthew 25:41–43) applies to the

candidate provider as punishment for refusing a call to compassion and to the receiver as punishment for refusing to appreciate an act of compassion.

The provider responsibility and receiver responsibility in a call to compassion are complementary and important to God's plan for the distribution of human service. The appreciation of an act of compassion is like completing responsibilities in several future calls to compassion. Similarly, declining appreciation of an act of compassion is like declining responsibilities in several future calls to compassion.

## **Provider-Receiver Functions**

By completing responsibility in a call to compassion, the provider alleviates the immediate need of the receiver. Also, the provider sows the seed for an infinite chain of provider-receiver relationships. The seed depends on the receiver appreciation: will germinate if the receiver appreciates the act of compassion but will die in place if the receiver does not appreciate the act of compassion.

The receiver appreciation motivates him or her to hunger and thirst to do likewise. As a result, the receiver is motivated to be sensitive to the needs of others and disposed to accept and complete responsibility in a future call to compassion. Thus, appreciation motivates the receiver to motivate another and yet another, in a potentially infinite network of provider-receiver relationships.

## **Long-Term Benefits of Human Service**

The short-term benefit of human service is that the provider alleviates the immediate need of the receiver. The long-term benefits arise from the infinite network of provider-receiver relationships initiated by the receiver appreciation. The long-term benefits are incubated, birthed, and launched by receiver appreciation of the short-term benefit. That is, the receiver appreciation of the short-term benefit unlocks the long-term benefits of human service.

## **Infinite Network of Provider-Receiver Relationships**

The receiver appreciation of an act of compassion motivates him or her to "go and do likewise" [Luke 10:37]. As a result, he or she is motivated to be sensitive to the needs of others and to accept and complete responsibility in a future call to compassion. Thus, the receiver appreciation motivates him or her to motivate another that motivates yet another—to a potentially infinite network of provider-receiver relationships.

## **The Appreciating Receiver**

The receiver's appreciation completes his or her responsibility in a call to compassion. That is, appreciation completes what God asks of the receiver (also known as the beneficiary) in a call to compassion. The appreciating receiver nurtures, initiates, and propagates the long-term benefits of human service.

He or she is blessed as a link in an infinite network of provider-receiver relationships.

## **A *Taker* of Human Service**

In contrast to the appreciating receiver, a *taker* declines the receiver responsibility in a call to compassion-appreciation. He or she receives but does not appreciate an act of compassion. That is, a *taker* receives the short-term benefit of human service but declines to nurture or initiate the long-term benefits. Consequently, human service dies in a *taker*.

The *taker* earns a promise of punishment for declining responsibility in a call to compassion-appreciation.

## **Summary of What We Learned**

When God calls a person to provide goods or service to benefit another, he also calls the other to appreciate the act of compassion. Appreciation initiates a process toward realizing the long-term benefits of human service by motivating a hunger to be good to others, sensitivity to others' needs, and a disposition to accept and complete responsibility in a subsequent call to compassion.

Thus, appreciation unlocks the long-term benefits of human service by empowering the receiver of an act of compassion to motivate self and others as the initiating link in a potentially infinite network of provider-receiver relationships.