

Listen, observe, act – in step with God **Bible reflections on Christ's compassion**

As we seek to be more effective in making a difference in our world we look to Christ as our perfect example of how to do so in step with God. These Bible reflections could be used in a Branch/group meeting or in a wider context, particularly where future direction is being considered.

Give everyone the opportunity to reflect silently for a while on the passages and then share what has stood out for them. Use these as a springboard to discuss the questions and thoughts below.

**Lord, speak to us as we meditate on your Word.
Challenge and inspire us.
Open our hearts and minds to hear your voice. Amen**

Jesus listens

A man with leprosy came to Jesus and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." ⁴¹ Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" ⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured.

Mark 1:40-42

Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted, 'Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!'
³¹ The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, 'Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!'
³² Jesus stopped and called them. 'What do you want me to do for you?' he asked.
³³ 'Lord,' they answered, 'we want our sight.'
³⁴ Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

Matthew 20:30-34

Jesus observes

Jesus withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

Matthew 14:13-14

When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'

10 Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and illness.

Matthew 9:36-10:1

Jesus acts

Whenever Jesus listened and observed it led to action

- Consider the different ways Jesus acted in response to what he heard and observed, and his motivation for his actions
- Reflect on the qualities that we do or should display as we respond to what we hear and observe
- What can we learn from Jesus' actions as to how we can reach out to the needs of the crowds (engage with our wider community?)

**We walk forward together
with the compassion of Christ;
neither running ahead nor lagging behind,
but always in step with God. Amen**