

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:

⁴⁰A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, 'If you choose, you can make me clean'. ⁴¹Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, 'I do choose. Be made clean!' ⁴²Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. Mark 1: 40–42

³⁰There were two blind men sitting by the roadside. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" ³¹The crowd sternly ordered them to be quiet; but they shouted even more loudly, "Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!" ³²Jesus stood still and called them, saying, "What do you want me to do for you?" ³³They said to him, "Lord, let our eyes be opened". ³⁴Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they regained their sight and followed him. Matthew 20: 30–34

Jesus observes:

¹³Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. Matthew 14: 13–14

³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest'. ¹Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. 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.**