

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Luke 10:38-42
Lesson #12
Listen up
12/18/2022



Social Justice

God's Image
in every human is
common ground
for our appeal
to every human
for **social justice**
for every human.



Social Justice

Christians "render to Caesar"
as they respect **God's Image**
in themselves and others.

- **Worldly fears** repress it. Acts 6:1-7
- **Empathetic listening** refreshes it. Luke 10:38-42

Last week (worldly fear)

- Social conflicts are **unavoidable**.
- Leaders should view social problems as **an opportunity** for a salt & light show.
- Leaders are to **empower & equip** the "victims" to correct injustices.
- Responses **driven by fear** can only make things worse.

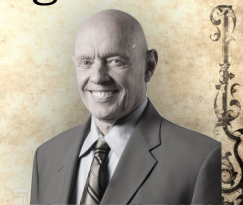
This week

- **Empathetic listening** is a key to healing.

Before you quit, **try**.
 Before you run, **walk**.
 Before you start, **plan**.
 Before you write, **think**.
 Before you spend, **earn**.
 Before you pray, **forgive**.
 Before you criticize, **wait**.
Before you speak, listen.

LISTEN contains the same letters as the word **SILENT**.

"When you listen with empathy to another person, you give that person psychological air."



Stephen Covey

The Golden Rule

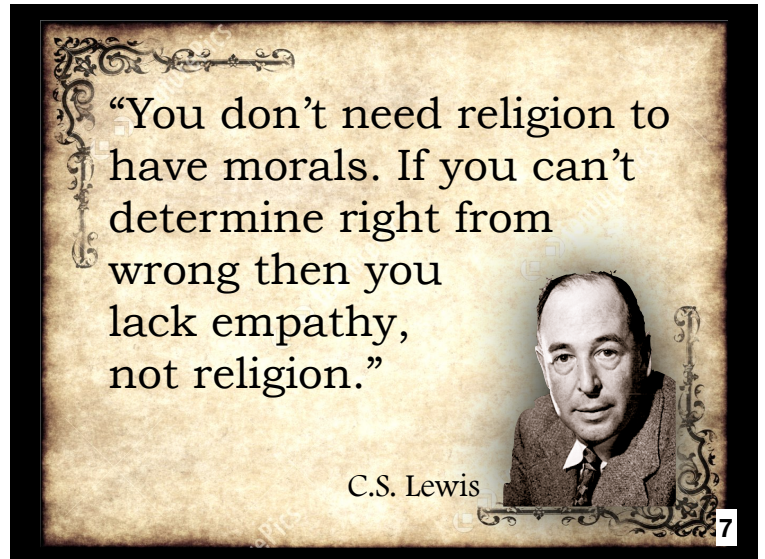
Luke 6:31

“Treat others the same way you want them to treat you.”

“Treat others with empathetic love.”

1. The root of social ethics is empathy.

6



Empathy is the front door to the house of human ethics.

To enter by any other way is to never quite be at home there.

If you don’t know how to respond to social injustice - cultivate empathetic listening and God’s Spirit will show you.

8

The truths that heal are heard through the empathy of the messenger.

1 Peter 3

“15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with **gentleness and reverence**; 16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile **your good behavior** in Christ may be put to shame.”

9

Empathy is an important attribute of God.

Psalm 56:8

“You have taken account of my wanderings; put my tears in Your bottle. Are they not in Your book?”



10

Psalm 23

“1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. 3 He restores my soul;

He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.

4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I **fear no evil,**

for You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows.

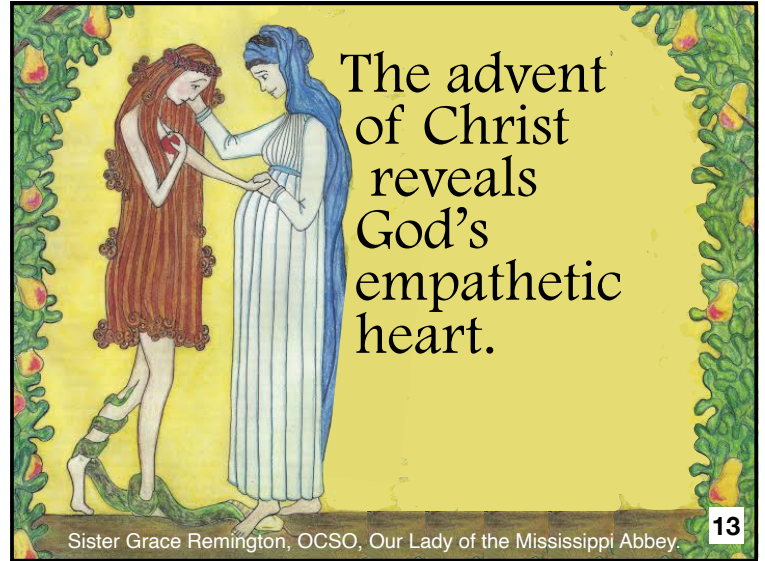
6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

11



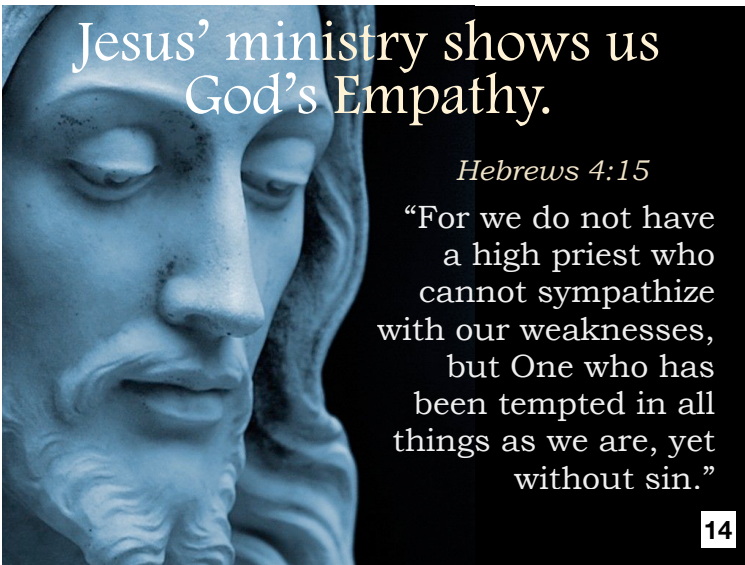
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The advent
of Christ
reveals
God's
empathetic
heart.

Sister Grace Remington, OCSO, Our Lady of the Mississippi Abbey.

13



Jesus' ministry shows us
God's Empathy.

Hebrews 4:15

"For we do not have
a high priest who
cannot sympathize
with our weaknesses,
but One who has
been tempted in all
things as we are, yet
without sin."

14



The Spirit's ministry is
Empathetic.

John 14:16

"I will ask the
Father, and He will
give you another
Comforter, that He
may be with you
forever"

15



Heaven is a
city of perfect,
empathetic,
fellowship

1 Corinthians 13:12

"I will know fully
just as I have been fully known"

16



If Heaven is a
city of perfect,
empathetic,
fellowship

can you imagine
what Hell is like?

17

Our pain comes not so much from our being broken people in a broken world as it does from the sense of isolation that brokenness creates.

Isolation is the essence of hell.

Empathy is light in isolation's darkness.

18

1. **The root of social ethics** is empathy.
2. **The doorway to both develop and display empathy is listening**

James 1:19

“Be quick to hear slow to speak and slow to anger;”

19

Empathy is a powerful force for social justice.

“Movies that encourage empathy are more effective than those that objectify problems.”



Roger Ebert
(Film critic)

20



21



22


“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; **courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.**”

Winston Churchill



23

“His key to success as president of Yale University was to grow antennae, not horns.”



James Rowland Angell

24

Listening is only as virtuous as our **choices** of who we listen to.

Our conscience, God's Word, Those who bear God's Image

Our cultural traditions, Our insecurities, Our pain killers, etc.



25

Luke 10 Everyone is listening BUT:

“38 Now these were traveling and entered a certain village. Martha welcomed them into her home. She had a sister called Mary, who moreover was listening to the Lord's word, seated at His feet. 40 But Martha was distracted by all her preparations and she said, 'Lord, do not care for me, but help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; 42 but only a few things are necessary, really only one, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.'”

Martha was listening to her rights.

Martha was listening to her culture.

Mary had chosen to listen to Jesus' heart.

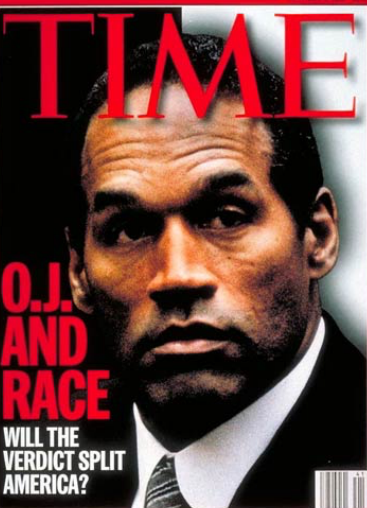
Jesus was listening to Martha's soul.

26

Matthew 18

“32 Then summoning him, his lord said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you entreated me. 33 Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, even as I had mercy on you?' 34 And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. 35 **So shall My heavenly Father also do to you,** if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”

27



The verdict suggested that the L.A. PD and Racism (not O.J) were on trial.

Was this a “come to Jesus” moment for many white people?

Could it be that God is as concerned about empathy as He is about justice?

28

One of God's principle tools in bringing people to faith in Christ is showing how his disciples responded to the circumstances of their lives and the lives of others.

Matthew 5:16

“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

29

**We now turn to applying the lessons
of the last several classes
to specific social issues.**

**My prayer is that we
become wise, engaged,
courageous, empathetic,
Bereans with a powerful
witness to the Word and
Way of the Cross.**

30

1 Corinthians 12

“25 that there should be no division in the body, but that **the members should have the same care for one another**. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”

Acts 2

“43 And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. 44 And all those who had believed were together, and **had all things in common**; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions, and were **sharing them with all, as anyone might have need**.”

32

A Berean's look at ...



32