

RISING GENERATIONS

THE UPPER ROOM

COMPASSION

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Colossians 3:12 (NRSV)

INCONVENIENCED

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When our problems, desires, needs, and plans are screaming for attention, compassion may become less a way of life. Our tunnel vision and lengthy to-do lists make us seem as if we don't care. I'm a planner. To let God restructure or interrupt my day is inconvenient. Changing plans is a challenge.

I used to think of compassion as stopping to help someone change a tire or giving money to the hungry. I also thought of it as visiting a friend, offering words of encouragement, taking someone to lunch, or listening to another person's troubles. Yet, when I read Colossians 3:12, I am challenged to think about what it means to *clothe* ourselves in compassion. We are called to put on compassionate hearts as we put on our clothes every day. It's a daily decision.

Jesus' life was interrupted when people needed him. In Mark 5:21-43, Jesus, who was already focused on an important task, stops to show compassion to a woman in need. Are we willing to do the same? <



TAKE THE CHALLENGE:

Think about how God wants you to respond to the needs of other people. Be willing to be inconvenienced. The greatest joy we get from showing compassion is realizing that in being agents of Jesus' love, we are becoming more like Christ, and God receives the glory.

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