

Compassion for People Table Conversations

- 1) Showing compassion for people can be messy. It seems like people's needs never surface at the most opportune time for us to help. Would you be more upset when someone you know, who needs help, prayer, or just to talk, doesn't call you at 4:00am or when they do?

- 2) It's easy to test our compassion for people by looking at the situations we are involved in with people who can not repay us emotionally, spiritually or financially. What 'messy' situation(s) are you currently involved in/ministering to? You should be able to list at least one at all times. Perhaps it's a leader, neighbor, friend, or maybe a complete stranger - but it should not be the same person over and over again.

- 3) It can be easy to view a pastoral call for help as an 'interruption' in our day. But the truth is – people are our ministry! Even so, with all the demands you face every day, (and they are unique to each of us depending on our role), how do you manage these emergency ministry moments with true compassion, along with all the things you are called and required to do, without feeling like you are going to 'go postal'?