

## CA 42 TFP4 CARING FOR THE HURTING

### ***Music theme***

**FOSTER:** The word “Christian” means ‘little Christ,’ or “Follower of Christ.” The name was first used in the city of Antioch a few years after Jesus rose from the dead. But did you know it was originally a derogatory term? Pagan worshipers used the word “Christian” to criticize believers for their unyielding and exclusive devotion to Jesus Christ. However, those early Christ-followers thought this was the highest compliment, so they began to call each other “Christians.”

Being identified with Christ meant being committed to what Jesus saw as important. In Luke chapter 4 verse 18 and 19 Jesus, said “*God has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*”

But what does this mean for us?

Welcome to Champions Arise. I’m Foster Braun and I’m with Kent Darcie. At the beginning of His ministry, Jesus defined His purpose with the words I just read. These words speak of the hope and freedom God offers us. So, as Christ-followers, we’re called to share the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ *and* care for the people God deeply loves. We’ll discuss this in more detail when we return to Champions Arise.

### ***Music Theme in – 5 SECS.***

**FOSTER:** Kent, I’m glad we’re going to talk about “caring for those who hurt” today. When we see Jesus, we see compassion. And Jesus told the disciples, “Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father.” (John 4:9) So we know that God is compassion as well.

**KENT:** Yes. **God** demonstrated compassion on mankind by sending Jesus here to die for our sins. **Jesus** showed compassion by ministering to mankind while He walked on the earth. And, as His followers, we should do the same.

**FOSTER:** I agree Kent, but in practical terms what does that mean? How do we show compassion in our daily lives?

**KENT:** Two examples come to mind when I think about compassion. And they are opposite in almost every way. One is Princess Diana and the other is Mother Teresa. Foster, did you know they both died the same week?

**FOSTER:** No, I didn’t remember that.

**KENT:** They both died during the summer of 1997. Two very different women. Yet both were known worldwide for their compassion for the hurting.

Princess Diana, even though she lived among the privileged elite and died a multimillionaire, was known for ministering and touching the untouchables in society—people “Royalty” never touched.

**FOSTER:** In some ways, like how Jesus touched people the Rabbis of that day would never touch.

**KENT:** Yes, and while I’m not making any statements on her personal life, she is an example of one who ministered to “the least of these” Jesus described in Matthew 25.

And on the other side of the spectrum was Mother Theresa. There was no glamour or movie stars surrounding her. She spent her time with diseased and profoundly poor people in India. After a life of serving “the least of these” Mother Theresa died with little more than a widow’s mite, but, I believe, had storehouses of riches in heaven.

**FOSTER:** And the one thing these two high-profile women had in common was reaching out to the poor, the maimed, the ostracized, and the homeless.

**KENT:** And we are called to do likewise. Now, not everyone who is moved with compassion to help the hurting and the hopeless is a Christian. But those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord can’t disregard the “*love your neighbor as yourself*” calling that is on each one of our lives as Christians.

**FOSTER:** Jesus told his disciples, “*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many* (Mk 10:45.)”

**KENT:** Yes, Jesus served people who were hurting physically, emotionally, relationally, and culturally.

**FOSTER:** But as men, I think we often have problems in this area. It seems like we’re not as compassionate by nature, we’re often very busy, and I think some of us believe being compassionate is for women. Men are supposed to be tough.

**KENT:** You raise an interesting point. Women, may *be* more compassionate—naturally, but I believe a man’s heart is moved more often than we think

When we see injustice, there is a churning in our heart to do something. When we see the homeless person on the street, very often our first instinct is to help.

**FOSTER:** So why don’t we?

**KENT:** Sometimes we are overwhelmed by the need and we think that if we can’t help everybody, we shouldn’t help anybody. Other times I think fear comes into play. Touching the untouchable—might be risky sometimes. We fear disease. And I’m just being honest here.

**FOSTER:** And that’s important. Champions Arise is by men, for men and we believe that it’s necessary to be real, if we are to help each other to be the Christian men God

desires us to be. So Kent, do you think there are any other reasons, as men, we don't act on our compassion?

**KENT:** I think you mentioned a big one. We are very busy. So we'll give money or say we'll pray for the less fortunate and move on.

And there is a time for giving and a time for praying, but in James chapter 2 verses 15 and 16 it says, *"If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?"*

**FOSTER:** I've heard it said that it's important for us *"to put feet to our faith."*

**KENT:** I've heard that too.

**FOSTER:** And if you just joined us, you're listening to Champions Arise. I'm Foster Braun and I'm speaking with Kent Darcie. Today we're talking about caring for hurting people. To learn more about this series, you can go to our web site at [www.championsarise.org](http://www.championsarise.org).

Kent, we've said that to be a follower of Jesus is to do as He did. And he showed compassion to the less fortunate and the needy. As Christian men, what can we do to be more like Jesus in this area?

**KENT:** Maintaining the three basic disciplines is where we start. First, we need to read God's word regularly. 2 Timothy chapter 3 verses 16 and 17 say, *"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, and equipped for every good work."* God's word is what should guide our lives.

The second basic discipline is praying regularly. The Apostle Paul told the Thessalonians to *"pray without ceasing."* And the third basic discipline is regularly meeting with other Christians and worshiping God. Hebrews 10 verses 24 and 25 say, *"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."*

**FOSTER:** Regularly meeting with other Christians is very important. As is reading God's word and spending time with God every day in prayer. But Kent, I sense you have more to share regarding how we can care for hurting people.

**KENT:** Actually, I'd like to share eight ways men can increase their compassion for those around them.

**FOSTER:** Great. What is the first way?

**KENT:** The first way to increase our compassion for the hurting is to ask God to help us see the hurt in the world the way He does—to break our heart with what breaks His.

You might pray something like this: “Lord, show me today who I can best care for and give me the courage to do what You want me to do.”

**FOSTER:** And what is the second way to increase our compassion?

**KENT:** We can increase our compassion by being more aware of those who God places in our area of influence. Sometimes we’ll see a need half way around the world, but miss the need of someone who lives next door to us. Sometimes we’re tempted to close our eyes to the neighbor and respond to the need across the world because we don’t have to get as involved. But Jesus got involved. And He desires for us to be involved as well.

**FOSTER:** Kent, I felt convicted your point about how I might send money, because it’s easier than sacrificing over the long period to help a neighbor.

**KENT:** Again, as men, we may be less compassionate, naturally and more task oriented. So if we can check something off our list, and help somebody at the same time, we’ll do that.

**FOSTER:** And you’re not saying that helping a need by supporting an organization that is ministering to people in other countries is bad.

**KENT:** Oh no. But if we use that as an excuse not to help our neighbor, there’s a problem.

**FOSTER:** That makes sense. What is the third step that can help us increase our compassion?

**KENT:** When we see a need, creating a list of practical ways we can assist someone is helpful. For example, Marcus and Faith lived across the street from a single mom with two kids.

Early every morning they’d see the mom put her children in the car and leave, and then return home in the evening after work. They knew she was working and the kids were in daycare. So one day the Lord moved on their hearts to reach out to their neighbor. They wrote down a list of things they could do and started doing them.

One night when the mom got home there was a basket with a hot meal waiting by the door for her and her children. Another day they dropped off a bouquet of flowers with a note “beautiful flowers for a beautiful mom” One Saturday morning Marcus cleared the dead branches from her yard. Another time Marcus and Faith took the kids for a walk so the single mom could have some time to herself.

In this situation, Marcus and Faith saw the need, listed practical ways they could help, and acted on them.

**FOSTER:** That’s a great example Kent. I can see where these steps would help to increase our compassion for those around us. What is the fourth step?

**KENT:** We need to excuse those who don't want or don't appreciate our willingness to help. Some people are proud. Others are private. Some people just aren't in a place to receive kindness. And that's ok. We can still continue to pray of them.

**FOSTER:** And the fifth step?

**KENT:** The fifth way we can increase our compassion for others is by finding time each month to help a widow in your neighborhood or church. Over and over again the Bible talks about ministering to the widows.

We can send a card, talk with them over the phone. Take them out for an outing. Just let them know you care. And a situation like this also covers the sixth and seventh ways we can increase our compassion. With a widow and others, we have the opportunity to grieve with them—talk about their departed spouse or whatever loss the person has experienced. Grieving is important for those who have experienced loss. But when we do this for the widow, or the single mom, or the coworker, we're allowing the love of Jesus to flow through us which is the seventh way we can increase our compassion.

**FOSTER:** And what is the last way we can increase our compassion.

**KENT:** We need to avoid the compassion killing tendency of being too hard on ourselves when we mess up. Sometimes we intend to help and it just doesn't go the way we planned. Or the person gets upset instead of being appreciative. Particularly as men, we may say, "Okay, I'm never doing that again." But there will always be people that are hurting. So there will always be opportunities for us to act on our compassion and offer them help in the name of Jesus Christ.

**FOSTER:** Thanks Kent. At the end of the Good Samaritan story, Jesus said, "*Go and do likewise.*" My friend, today we talked about how you can care for those who are hurting. "*Go and do likewise.*"

### ***Music Theme in***

### **Program Close**

**FOSTER:** Thank you for listening to Champions Arise where men are equipped and strengthened to meet their God-given potential. This program concludes our series which featured material from the book "*The Four Priorities*" by Dr. John Tolson and Larry Kreider. Today we discussed the importance of caring for the hurting. This program was based on chapter 27. "*The Four Priorities*" is published by "The Gathering USA" in 2007 and used by permission. You can learn more about this book and listen to any of the programs in this series at our website [championsarise.org](http://championsarise.org). Just click on 'The Four Priorities.' You can also listen to programs from other series as well at the Champions Arise website. I'm Foster Braun with Kent Darcie. Thank you for listening to Champions Arise. May God mold you into the man He knows you can be.

***Music under then up established and out.***

**Closing ID**  
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