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**WISE COMPASSION**

Proverbs 14:21;22:9; 28:27 & Acts 2:1-4, 11b-12

**INTRODUCTION:**

A. Over the past several months we have learned a lot about being compassionate towards one another.

B. **Compassionate** living is an important dynamic of Christian living...wise Christian living.

C. The needy and disadvantaged in this world have a powerful advocate in their neighborhood... God!

***"On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like roaring of a mighty windstorm ... then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages... (so that everyone could hear) about the wonderful things God had done."*** Acts 2:1-4 & 11

- **Jesus** foretells this event.  
***"But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come... When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you (wisely) into all truth."***  
John 16:7 & 13

D. We **all** have an Advocate that wisely guides us in our daily lives. The Holy Spirit calls to us, through the Bible, to be advocates for others **"to love one another"** ... especially those in need.

***"Blessed are those who are generous, because they feed the poor."*** Proverbs 22:9

***"It is a sin to belittle one's neighbor; blessed are those who help the poor."*** Proverbs 14:21

***"Whoever gives to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to poverty will be cursed."*** Proverbs 28:27

**I. HEARING GOD'S CALL IS ABOUT "OPENING OUR EYES"**

A. To lovingly open our hearts we must first open our **eyes**.  
***"...but those who close their eyes..."*** Proverbs 28:27

- We are all tempted to look away from pain and suffering.

B. Remember the first time your eyes were opened to the pain of the poor?

C. When we "open the eyes of our heart" we learn quickly that the pain and suffering that some people experience has nothing to do with material possessions.

- There are those around us who are "poor of spirit."
  - Painful emotions... loss, grief, anxiety, depression
  - Poverty of the soul... moral bankruptcy

D. May I ask you, will you open your eyes and vow to keep them open?

**II. IT'S ALSO ABOUT OPENING OUR LIVES**

A. It is about lending a **helping** hand.

***"She (the noble wife—a noble person) extends a helping hand to the poor, and opens her arms to the needy."***  
Proverbs 31:20

B. Our **resources** as God's advocates are the same for all of us: time, talents, treasure and touch.

- Opening our calendars
- Sharing our talents
- Offering our treasures
- Extending our touch

C. ***"And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'"*** Matthew 25:40

D. "Sympathy sees and says, 'I'm sorry.' Compassion sees and says, 'I'll help!'"

**CONCLUSION:**