

September 16, 2026

Move Toward the Person

September Series: We Are The Church

Week Focus: Help Carry the Load

Scripture – James 2:15–16 - *“Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?”*

Devotional Reflection

Noticing someone’s burden is important, but biblical compassion does not stop with awareness. James gives us a challenging picture of someone who recognizes another person’s need, offers kind words, and then continues on without doing anything that could actually help. The problem was not that the words were unkind; the problem was that **compassion never became action**. There are moments when seeing a need should cause us to ask, “Is there something God is calling me to do?”

Moving toward someone does not always require a dramatic gesture. Sometimes it is sending the text instead of merely thinking about sending it. Sometimes it is making the phone call, preparing a meal, offering a ride, sitting with someone, praying with them in the moment, or checking back after everyone else has moved on. Small acts of care can communicate something powerful: **“I see you. What you are carrying matters. You do not have to face this moment alone.”** Care becomes visible when compassion becomes action.

But moving toward people also requires sensitivity. We should not assume that we know what someone needs simply because we recognize that they are struggling. Sometimes our desire to help can cause us to begin giving answers before we have truly listened. A better approach may be to ask, **“What would actually be helpful to you right now?”** That question allows care to be shaped by the person’s genuine need rather than by our assumptions. Christian support is not about taking control of somebody’s situation; it is about becoming available to love them faithfully.

Jesus did not love us from a distance. He moved toward us. His compassion was repeatedly expressed through presence, mercy, truth, and action, and ultimately He came near to accomplish what we could never accomplish for ourselves. Because Christ has moved toward us, His love should increasingly move **through us toward others**. Yesterday challenged us to recognize that not every burden is visible. Today takes us one step further: **when God allows you to notice someone, be willing to move toward them.**

Focus for Today

Care becomes visible when compassion becomes action.

Practice

- Think about someone God has recently brought to your attention.
 - Instead of only intending to reach out, **take one step toward them today.**
 - Ask, **“What would actually be helpful to you right now?”** rather than assuming what they need.
 - If someone asks for prayer, when appropriate, pray with them in the moment.
 - Choose one practical act of care you can offer with compassion, wisdom, and healthy boundaries.
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Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You that Your love for me was never distant or passive. You saw my need and moved toward me with grace, mercy, and compassion. Forgive me for the times I have recognized someone's struggle but allowed good intentions to become the end of my response. Give me a heart that is willing not only to notice but also to move.

Show me where compassion should become action today. Give me wisdom so that I do not assume, control, or overstep, but instead listen carefully and respond faithfully. Help me recognize the practical opportunities You place before me to encourage, pray, serve, and simply be present. Because You moved toward me, teach me to move toward others with Your love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Reflection Question

Who has God brought to my attention, and what is one specific step I can take toward them today?