

October 9, 2026

Interruptible

October Series: Love Your Neighbor
Week Focus: Look Around

Scripture – Galatians 6:10 — *“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”*

Devotional Reflection

Most of us have an idea of how we expect our day to go. There are responsibilities to handle, places to be, tasks to complete, and plans we hope to accomplish. Then someone calls. A conversation takes longer than expected. Someone needs encouragement. A person we had not planned to spend time with suddenly needs our attention. These moments can feel like interruptions because they were not included in our plans. Yet Galatians 6:10 challenges us to recognize something important: **opportunities to do good do not always arrive according to our schedule.**

Paul says, *“as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people.”* That phrase provides both an invitation and an important boundary. We are called to recognize opportunities to do good, but we are not commanded to respond personally to every need everywhere. We have limitations, responsibilities, and assignments God has already entrusted to us. Not every interruption is a divine assignment, and compassion does not require us to live without boundaries. But we should be careful that our schedules do not become so rigid and our lives so centered on our own plans that there is never room for another person. **A heart God is transforming becomes increasingly interruptible by compassion.**

The Samaritan in Jesus' story was traveling when he encountered the wounded man. Helping this man was not presented as the original purpose of his journey, yet what he saw affected what he did next. He allowed compassion to create room for another person. This does not mean we should assume that every unexpected request requires us to change our plans. It means we remain available enough to ask God, **“Is this simply an interruption, or is there an opportunity here for me to love someone faithfully?”** Sometimes the answer may be to stop. Sometimes it may be to respond later. Sometimes wisdom may tell us that someone else is better equipped to help. The important thing is that we remain open to God's direction.

As we continue learning to **look around**, consider how much room exists in your life for people you did not plan for. Transformation should not make us controlled by every need, but neither should it make us unavailable to people. Jesus is the Savior; we are not. We do not have to carry everybody or respond to everything. But we can hold our plans with enough openness that compassion has somewhere to go when God places an opportunity before us. **Compassion makes room for people without making you responsible for everyone.**

FOCUS FOR TODAY

A heart God is transforming becomes increasingly interruptible by compassion.

PRACTICE

- Look at your plans for today and ask God to help you remain **available without becoming irresponsible**.
 - When an unexpected need arises, resist immediately labeling it either an obligation or an inconvenience.
 - Pause and ask: **“Lord, is there an opportunity here for me to love someone faithfully?”**
 - If you cannot respond in the moment, consider whether there is an appropriate way to **follow up later rather than simply forgetting the person**.
 - Protect the responsibilities God has entrusted to you while leaving enough margin for compassion.
 - At the end of the day, reflect on whether there was a moment when another person interrupted your plans—and what God may have taught you through it.
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PRAYER

Father, thank You for every opportunity You give me to reflect Your love to the people around me. Help me hold my plans with wisdom and humility. Keep me from becoming so consumed with my schedule, responsibilities, and priorities that I have no room to notice when someone may need compassion.

Give me discernment to recognize the difference between an interruption and an opportunity You are placing before me. Teach me when to stop, when to respond later, when to connect someone with other help, and when to continue faithfully with what You have already assigned to me. I do not want to carry what You have not given me to carry, but I also do not want busyness to become an excuse for indifference. Make my heart increasingly available to You and to the people You call me to love.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTION

How available is your life to the unexpected needs of others, and where might God be asking you to create enough margin for compassion without neglecting what He has already entrusted to you?