

## Catholics BELIEVE

God is love. God is the ultimate source of love and the fullest depth of love. All genuine human love in some small way is a connection to the ultimate mystery of divine love.

Mother Teresa at her mission to aid poor and starving people in Calcutta, India



## With Great Love

Sometimes seeking forgiveness is as difficult as giving forgiveness. Jesus shows us not only the path of forgiveness, but also the way to compassion.

This way to compassion is hard for us because it often asks us to move outside of our “comfort zones.” We might be afraid of people who are different than us, or we might think we will be asked to go beyond our abilities.

Jesus helps us past those fears, and reaches out to all peoples, especially those who are ignored, rejected or abandoned. Jesus showed compassion to everyone, whether the person was a leper, a blind man, a woman who lost her son, an adulteress about to be killed, a young boy possessed by a demon, or a paralytic. Jesus revealed a heart of compassion and challenges us to be people of compassion.

The ultimate challenge from Jesus is that our concern for those in need will be the basis for God’s judgment:

*“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him and say ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’”*

MATTHEW 25:31–40

Jesus was clear that the way we show love to others is how we show love for him. This often includes even the littlest of things we do. Mother Teresa is remembered for pointing out that we should do “small things with great love.”

► What “small thing” can you do for someone in need?