

## Lesson 23

### Understanding Charity: Loving Others Like Jesus Does

#### What is Charity?

Charity is pure love like what Jesus has for us. It's not just feeling good about someone, but it's about genuinely caring for them from deep inside our hearts. Jesus taught us to love others just like He loves us, and that's what charity is all about (1 Timothy 1:5).

#### Why Charity Matters Most

Charity is the most important thing because it never ends. It's even greater than anything else we can do because it lasts forever. Jesus showed us how to love others, and He gave His life for us out of love. He said the greatest love is when someone is willing to give up their life for their friends (John 15:12–13).

#### Helping Those in Need

Jesus told a story about a man who was hurt and needed help. A priest and a temple worker saw him but didn't help. But a Samaritan, who was disliked by many, stopped and took care of him. He even paid for a place for him to stay until he got better (Luke 10:30–37). Jesus wants us to help anyone who needs it, just like the Samaritan did.

#### Having Love in Our Hearts

Charity isn't just about giving things to others; it's about having love in our hearts for everyone. When we love others, we're patient and kind. We don't brag or get angry easily. We forgive others even when they do something wrong, just like Jesus forgave those who hurt Him (1 Corinthians 13:4–8).

#### Becoming More Charitable

We can become more charitable by following Jesus' example. We can pray to have more love for others. We should also treat ourselves with kindness and respect. And we should never think we're better than anyone else. Instead, we should be patient with others and try to help them.

#### Scripture References:

- 1 Timothy 1:5 (Charity comes from a pure heart)
- John 15:12–13 (Laying down one's life for friends)
- Luke 10:30–37 (The parable of the good Samaritan)
- 1 Corinthians 13:4–8 (The characteristics of charity)

Title: "A Heart Full of Love"

In a quaint village nestled among green hills, there lived a boy named David. David had a heart as big as the sky and a smile that could light up even the darkest of days. He was known throughout the village for his kindness and compassion towards others.

One day, as David was walking home from school, he noticed a group of children gathered around a girl sitting alone on a bench, tears streaming down her cheeks. Curious, David approached her and asked what was wrong.

The girl, whose name was Lily, sniffled and explained that she had lost her favorite doll while playing in the park. She had searched everywhere but couldn't find it, and now she was afraid it was gone forever.

Without hesitation, David knelt down beside Lily and took her hand. "Don't worry, Lily," he said with a reassuring smile. "I'll help you find your doll."

Together, they retraced Lily's steps through the park, searching high and low for any sign of the missing doll. As they searched, David told Lily stories about kindness and love, reminding her that even in difficult times, there are people who care.

Finally, just as they were about to give up hope, David spotted a flash of color hidden beneath a bush. With a triumphant shout, he reached inside and pulled out Lily's lost doll, its bright eyes shining in the sunlight.

Overjoyed, Lily threw her arms around David, tears of happiness streaming down her face. "Thank you, David," she exclaimed. "You're the kindest person I know."

But David simply smiled and shook his head. "It was nothing, Lily," he said. "I'm just happy I could help."

As they walked back to the village together, hand in hand, David felt a warm glow spread through his chest. He realized that true happiness comes not from what we receive, but from what we give to others—from the love and kindness we share with those around us.

And in that moment, David knew that he would always strive to have a heart full of love, just like Jesus. For he understood that it is through acts of charity and compassion that we truly reflect the light of God's love into the world.