

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 Peter 3:8-9

Lesson #26

Empathy

01/28/2017

**“lay aside  
the old self,  
and put on  
the new self.”**

1

***“If you find yourself saying  
‘But I’m just being honest’,  
chances are you’ve just  
been unkind.***

***Honesty  
does not heal  
without Empathy.”***

**Dan Waldschmidt**  
(Business Strategist)



2

***“Movies that encourage  
empathy are more effective  
than those that objectify  
problems.”***



**Roger Ebert**  
(Film critic)

3



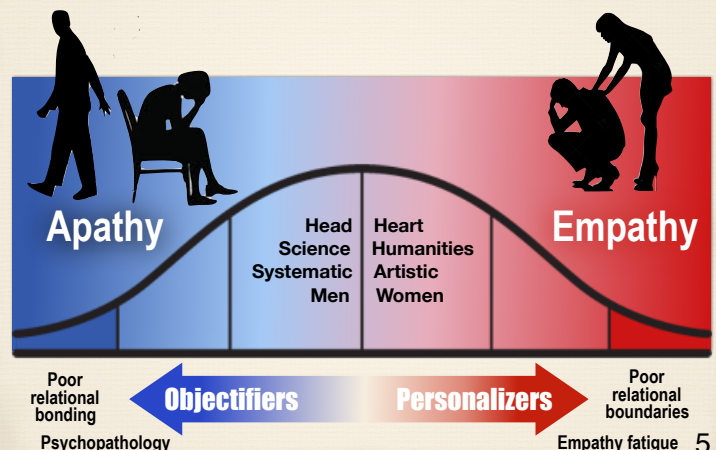
**Dr. Oz**

***“The opposite  
of anger is not  
calmness, it’s  
empathy.”***

**Mature love will discern when to wash  
feet and when to shake the dust from  
feet and walk away.**

4

**We need a healthy balance**



5

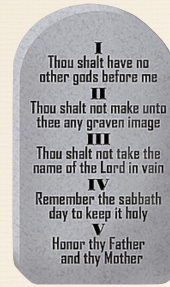


# Empathy

1.

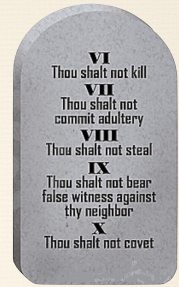
It is the foundation  
of all human ethics.

6



*Matthew 22:37*

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”



*Matthew 22:39*

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

7

*Galatians 5:14*

“For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, “you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

8

Empathy is the front  
door to the house of  
human ethics.

To enter by any other  
way is to never quite be  
at home there.

9

# Empathy

It is the essence of  
the Golden Rule

“You don’t need religion to have morals. If you can’t determine right from wrong then you lack empathy, not religion.”

*C.S. Lewis*

10

*1 Peter 3:8*

“<sup>8</sup> To sum up, all of you be **harmonious, sympathetic**, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; <sup>9</sup> not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead, for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.”

***These two words are  
synonymous with empathy  
(sharing the same feelings).***

11



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*This passage addresses both*

**attitude in action**

12

# Empathy

## 2. It is at the heart of the Gospel.

13

It is an important attribute  
of God.

*Psalms 56:8*

“You have taken  
account of my  
wanderings; put my  
tears in Your bottle.  
Are they not in Your book?”



14

It is the essence of the Incarnation.

*Matthew 1:23*

“And they shall call His name Immanuel, which translated means, “God with us.”

Jesus’ ministry shows us God’s  
Empathy.

*Hebrews 4:15*

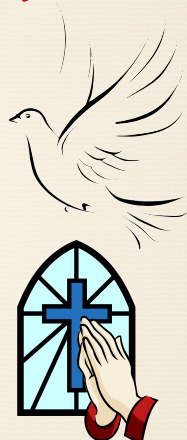
“For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.”

15

The Spirit’s ministry is  
Empathetic.

*Romans 8:26-27*

“And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.”



16

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**Empathy connects  
A CARING GOD & a broken world.**

17



*Philippians 2*

“5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but **emptied Himself**, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made **in the likeness of men**. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even **death on a cross.**”

18

*Philippians 2*

“5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,”

**1. Empathy is from the inside out.**

6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

**2. Empathy does not consider “ONE’S OWN RIGHTS.”**

19

7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

**3. Empathy takes the initiative to lay “self” aside.**

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

**4. Empathy is willing to suffer loss for what is love.**

20

The deepest desires  
of our hearts are:

To be reconciled to God,  
each other, & ourselves.

To be known  
and to know

21

*Our pain comes not so much  
from our being broken people  
in a broken world as it does  
from the sense of isolation  
that brokenness creates.*

**Isolation is the essence of hell.**

*Empathy removes  
isolation.*

22

***Heaven is a city of perfect,  
empathetic, fellowship***

*1 Corinthians 13:12*

“I will know fully just as I have  
been fully known”

***If Heaven is a city of perfect,  
empathetic, fellowship  
what do you think Hell is like?***

23



# Empathy

## 3. Its Development

24

“treat people with understanding when you can, and fake it when you can’t – **until you do understand.**”

Kim Harrison  
(author)

### *1 Peter 3*

“<sup>8</sup> To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; <sup>9</sup> not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.”

25

### *How is empathy developed?*

1. It is learned as it is **modeled** for us by others (especially early in life).
2. It is an App that comes with the installment of **Christ's Spirit**.
3. It is cultivated through **listening** not projecting ourselves on others.
4. It is acquired as we **share** similar experiences with others.

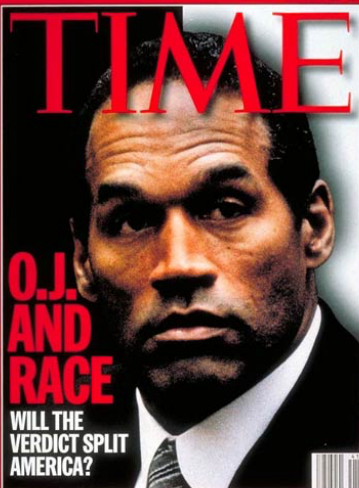
26

### *Matthew 18*

“<sup>32</sup> Then summoning him, his lord said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you entreated me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, even as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup> **And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.** <sup>35</sup> **So shall My heavenly Father also do to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.**”

- **The King's anger and God's** - Is that we too often have too little empathy.
- **If we don't learn empathy the easy way** - We may have to learn it through sharing the experience.

27



The evidence was a slam dunk for conviction of O.J.

The verdict suggested that the LAPD and Racism (not O.J.) were on trial.

Could it be that God is more concerned about big picture empathy than short term justice?

28