

Caring Like Jesus Cares

Good News People

Mark 9:35-38, Matthew 25:24-40, John 10:1-18

August 9-10, 2026

Intro

We're examining the ways Jesus engaged in mission as our model for how we join him in His mission. This is His mission. **It's not so much that the church has a mission, but the mission of God has us.**

- We want to grow in our understanding and application as missionaries of Jesus Christ to the places He's sent us so we can proclaim his kingdom in word and deed.
- This message is really a part 2 of last week. Last week we focused more on seeing/looking, but for Jesus, seeing always led to caring. We want to unpack more of what it means to have Jesus-shaped compassion.

Here's the spine of this whole series – four questions:

- How do we see like Jesus? Care like Jesus? Pray like Jesus? And go where Jesus sends?

Last week we learned the first one: ***love begins by looking.***

Today we take the next step, because when Jesus saw the crowds, he was moved to care. Good-news people don't just notice people – we care like Jesus cares.

Matthew 9:35-38 NLT

Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."

The Compassion of Christ

What are we talking about when we talk about compassion?

- Compassion is the character that fuels acts of kindness and mercy.
- Compassion, a form of love, is stirred up within us when we are confronted with those who suffer or are vulnerable.
- Compassion is often what produces action to alleviate someone's suffering.

Henri Nouwen, *You Are The Beloved*

Compassion challenges us to cry out with those in misery, to mourn with those who are lonely...Compassion requires us to be weak with the weak, vulnerable with the vulnerable, and powerless with the powerless. Compassion means full immersion in the condition of being human.

Compassion (Matthew 9:36) = a gut reaction

- It literally means "the moving of the gut"
- In Jesus' context, people believed the gut were the seat of your strongest emotions and passions
- It was the same both in Greek and in the Hebrew - in both languages, the very idea of compassion is that it comes from your bowels.

When Jesus saw people in need, he was moved with compassion.

- His heart was ever filled with merciful kindness and feelings of pity for the distressed of every description.
- Whenever and wherever suffering and sorrow of body or soul met his eyes, his heart was moved with compassion.
- **Charles Spurgeon:** *If you would sum up the whole character of Christ towards us, it might be gathered into this one sentence, "He was moved with compassion."*

Look to the Scriptures:

- Jesus was moved with compassion for the two blind beggars and touched their eyes so they might see. (Matthew 20:31)

- Jesus was moved with compassion for the leper and healed him of his plague. (Mark 1:41)
- Jesus was moved with compassion for the demoniac – who didn't even ask to be healed – and delivered him from the tormented spirit. (Mark 5:19)
- Jesus was moved with compassion for the widow and told her dead son to arise! (Luke 7:13)
- Jesus was moved with compassion for the crowds, the hungry and the hurting, the harassed and helpless, and responded to both their physical and spiritual needs. (Matthew 9:36-38)

The compassion of Jesus is one of the deepest, richest, most comforting qualities of his character.

- This is the same compassion that flows through us who are given His Spirit..
- If you have life in Christ, you should to see like He sees and care like he cares.

So, how do we grow in compassion?

1. Compassion Grows From Knowing God's Heart

In the Old Testament, the prophet Isaiah frequently reveals the heart of God as a loving Father.

- He folds Israel in his arms as a shepherd and his lambs... (Isaiah 40:11)
- Israel's scattered children are his sons and daughters in whom he redeems and restores... (Isaiah 43:5-7)
- In wrath for a moment he hides his face, but his mercy and kindness are everlasting... (Isaiah 54:8)
- Greater than a mother's tenderness is Jehovah's love for Israel... (Isaiah 49:15, Isaiah 66:13)

Matthew's Gospel shows us that Jesus embodies the heart of God as the true Shepherd of God's people.

- John's Gospel fleshes out for us that Jesus is not only the Great Shepherd, but he is the Good Shepherd. (John 10:1-18)

Jesus Christ is the greatest revelation we have of God the Father's mercy and kindness. Jesus reveals that God's heart is moved with compassion for us, and our compassion flows out of God's compassion for us.

2. Compassion Grows From Reflecting On The Needs Of Others

Jesus allowed himself to be affected by what he saw. Jesus saw the crowds and felt their suffering. What Jesus saw broke his heart.

- Jesus meditated on the needs of people, and was moved to action.
- For Jesus compassion was never devoid from action. Compassion is meant to move us. Are we moved by what we see?

The reason our "compassion" so often fails to lead to meaningful action is because we haven't let what we see get inside our hearts.

We're adept at glancing at problems and moving on.

- I can see the desperation and brokenness of the world in my News Feed and quickly scroll away to get lost in videos of people tricking their dogs into thinking they've disappeared.
- The other side is that we see needs – and it matters to us at least momentarily – and so we respond almost flippantly.
- We drop a few dollars into a can or share a hashtag so we can feel like we haven't ignored it.

We need to allow ourselves to be moved by the needs of people.

- This is not to say God calls us to be overwhelmed by the needs of the world, because none of us can actually care for all the needs of the world.
- But if we have the heart of Christ in us, the needs God puts in our line of sight ought to move us.
- We need to let what we're seeing get inside us and let our hearts break or we're never going to really get involved in a way that changes lives.

Compassion involves so identifying with the situation of others that one is prepared to act for their benefit. What are the needs God has opened your eyes to?

3. Compassion Grows From Participating In The Ministry Of Reconciliation

Jesus allowed himself to be affected by what he saw. When Jesus identifies the people as sheep without a shepherd – helpless and harassed – he’s not only criticizing the spiritual and political leadership of the day, but he’s also announcing the presence of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Shepherd has finally come! (Matthew 2:6, Ezekiel 34)

In every situation where Jesus demonstrates compassion in action, his motivation is not simply to meet their obvious needs, but to see us reconciled to God! Jesus wants people to encounter the love of God in a way they've never experienced. He wants people to know that their Father loves them and has been pursuing them and that he's been with them all along.

[insert story of NFL coach Deland McCullough's search for his father]

The presence of Jesus is meant to tell us that our Father loves us and has been with us all along.

- This is the ministry of reconciliation – the way God is bringing people back to himself through Christ – that Jesus inaugurates, models, and then delegates to his disciples. It’s the joy of seeing reconciliation – physical AND spiritual needs met – that drives compassion.
- Yes, we are called to meet practical needs – but we do so in such a way that the LOVE, the HOPE, the PEACE, the PRESENCE we embody gives those whom we bless a foretaste of the Kingdom of Heaven.

You are not called to be Mother Teresa or St. Francis or E.D. Whiteside, and you may not even be called to the same harvest God worked through them to labor in, but you are all called to be faithful in seeing the needs God puts in front of us so that our Christ-like compassion leads to Christ-like action.

This is why Jesus prays for, and tells us to pray for, laborers for the harvest because what the world needs - what Pittsburgh’s North Side needs - is to be saturated with people who embody the compassionate heart of Jesus.

Final Thoughts

Our compassion is evidence of our closeness with Christ.

For some of you, this entire message may have seemed like an exercise in stating the obvious but I cannot overstate what I'm about to say: ***Jesus explicitly tells his disciples that their compassion is evidence of their conversion.***

- You can be viewed as the most spiritually mature person in the room, you can be the most active member of ACAC, you can speak in the tongues of angels but if you have not love...if you do not have the compassionate heart of Jesus...if you only care when it is convenient for you...Jesus sees and he says I know you not.
- You can be a hottest mess in the room, but if you endeavor to see the face of Christ in every person you meet and you love them like Jesus would...if you care even when it costs you...Jesus sees and he says you're his.

Following Jesus in his compassion isn't just a good thing to do - eternity is at stake.

I leave you with the words of Jesus to challenge AND encourage us...

Matthew 25:34-40 NLT

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 creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'

"Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

"And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'

May we see the face of Jesus in every man, woman, and child so that may we show them the grace of Jesus. May the Spirit of God give us the EYES of Jesus so that He can grow within us the HEART of Jesus so that we can become the HANDS & FEET of Jesus to our world.