

A foundational message to show you that Jesus Christ was a caring person and what caused Him to be a caring person was that he was a compassionate person.

I want to define compassion to you...

Then give you seven different examples where Jesus compassion caused him to care in several different directions, so that we know what directions our Care Ministry ought to go in as well.

We read in Jude that compassion does make a difference in peoples lives.

*Jude 21-22 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference:*

I think people come to church looking for not only truth, but they are looking for someone who cares for them, someone who will have compassion on them.

### **Matt. 9: 35-38**

There were couple of militant times in Jesus' ministry where He got angry and turned over the tables of the moneychangers and chased people out of the temple.

*Matt 21:12-13 And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.*

But for the most part He was a man of compassion. Last week we studied the story of the Good Samaritan who "Cared" for an individual who was half dead! We learned that it cost him some time and it cost him expense to care for him, then he took him to an inn and that also cost him some more expense.

We need to get people in the church who are half dead and allow our Caregivers to help meet the needs that are in their lives. (That was last weeks lesson.)

This week's illustration is of the Master himself and His compassion.

Seven different historical examples of where Jesus has compassion on somebody.

Compassion makes the difference! And if we are going to have a church make a difference in people's lives that we are going to have to show compassion.

**DEF. of COMPASSION:** "Your hurt in my heart / My hurt in your heart." (Art Kohl)

Your hurt is not going to penetrate my heart if my heart is hard, and my hurt is not going to penetrate your heart if your heart is hard.

We need to be tenderhearted!

*Eph 4:31-32 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

It is kind of, against the nature of man to be compassionate and tender. We know Jesus though as caring, patient and the gentle shepherd!

Your hurt is in God's heart and quit frankly His hurt ought to be in our hearts as well!

**Seven things, 7 examples where Christ showed compassion.**

**1. Matt. 9: 35-38 Compassion will care for souls and pray for laborers.**

He was not just spouting empty words! When He talked about the harvest truly being plenteous in verse 37. He came to that conclusion by being in the harvest in verse 35. He was not just saying, “this is what we ought to be doing, but this is what I have been doing!”

We must be walking the walk before we can talk the talk!

Vs. 36 True compassion will “move us” Produce works, not passiveness, motivate us!  
It will move us to pray! Then... you know what He is going to say? “Why don’t you do it?”

2, **Compassion will care for the sick:** *Matt 9:35 ...healing every sickness and every disease among the people.*

We don’t have the gift of healing today, I don’t believe that it exists today, but we serve a God who can and still heals today. We need to be ministering to the sick and praying for those that are sick.. (Ex. Samuel Gilmore’s letter about Jan Blinston)

We learned last week that the Pastor needs to be the Care Provider and the church is to be the Caregivers. I need to equip you, the saints, for the work of the ministry. One of you can give more care to a person in one month than I probably could in a year’s time. And if a dozen of you each can concentrate your care on one individual then maybe statistics show that six or half of them will come back and stay.

Compassion can make the difference!

*Matt 14:14 And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.*

Two ways that we can give compassion toward the sick

a. By prayer: *James 5:13-15 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up;*

I believe that God answers prayers!

b. By visitation: *Matt 25:35-36 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me:*  
How many of you know, that it is nice to have people think about you, visit you, send cards to you, let them know that your praying for them, when your sick?

*Matt 25:40 ...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*

3. **Compassion will care for people’s temporal needs:**

*Matt 15:32-37 Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way. 33 And his disciples say unto him, Whence should we have so much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude? 34 And Jesus saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes. 35 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. 36 And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. 37 And they did all eat, and were filled:*

The Lord used his men, the disciples, to distribute the food to the needy.

It is just like the model we saw in Acts 6, where the leaders in the church at Jerusalem said, *Acts 6:3-4 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.*

(Ex. Let me vent for a moment here tonight; And let me preface this whole thing first by saying that I love being a help and a blessing to people. “Our Thanksgiving baskets & turkeys.”)

I **felt** that I got little to no help this year with this project. I contacted the school superintendent for names of needy families, I contacted and wrote out formal requests for turkeys from Tops supermarkets. I made announcements for folks to bring food to the church. I bought and brought food to the church.

I thank the Lord for the folks who donated the food and gave \$\$ We spent \$240.00

Jon & I did all the grocery shopping !? Can you imagine us two in the grocery store?

Jon & carried and lugged around the food up and down the stairs, Dividing & Boxing it all up.

Mr. & Mrs. Hill delivered two of the baskets.

Aaron and I delivered two of the baskets.

My wife delivered one of them.

And I delivered the last 4 of them myself! (Mon. night; Tuesday morning; Tuesday night)

In Acts 6, they as well as you and I need to be Spiritual, spiritual care givers and spiritual care providers. But the carnal needs of the body of Christ still need to be met, the widows need to be taken care of. Hungry people need to be feed,

*Rom 15:27 It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.*

*1 John 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?*

*Heb 10:34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.*

(As the Apostle Paul had a need and made it known to the church, that need was met... maybe they had a garage sale or something!) They spoiled their goods! Sold them and gave them to the man of God as he had need.

They knew that in heaven they would be rewarded with a better and enduring substance!

*Eph 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.*

(Not to keep to him the thing that he greedeth)

One of the reasons why we work is to help give to them that needeth. (Discipleship lesson #12.

We, as Americans, are the richest people that live on this earth. We have had the greatest economy over the last 17 years that this world has ever seen, YET... we are so indebt that when we see people that are in need, we say, “I wish I could help.”

We as God’s people must set the example, get out of debt so that we can effectively minister to people who have needs.

How do we start to go in that direction?

*Luke 12:33-34 Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

We accumulate so much junk over the course of a year. We all have stuff that we can get rid of and sell that we don’t need, that we can use to help somebody fix their car, buy them a stove, or the medicines they need.

(Ex. 4<sup>th</sup> July Holiday week... Merilu had a garage sale so we took off!)

You will not go broke!! We have a God whose Word is His honor. He said in...

*Prov 19:17 He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.*

Anything you give to the poor, God will give back to you!

We must have their hurt in our hearts and meet their temporal needs.

#### **4. Compassion will forgive the offender:**

*Matt 18:27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.*

Compassion should move us to do something. Jesus is moved with compassion when the unbelieving sinner comes to Him and asks Him to be saved! And Jesus looses that person and forgives him of that debt.

*Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Do you remember the day that you were saved? You were saved because Jesus had mercy on us! *Titus*

*3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us,*

The Lord is a compassionate God who forgives.

*Matt 9:2 And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.*

*Matt 9:6 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins,*

Last I looked, Earth is still yours and my address!

*Luke 7:47-48 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.*

Compassion will forgive the offender!

#### **5. Compassion will care for the oppressed.**

Would it be nice if all we had to do was minister to “normal people and normal families.”

(Ex. Bro Lou Guadagno... I wish I had some normal people like you do in your church)

People have a lot of problems and some are downright scary to deal with but we need to have compassion on them.

Mark 9:17-29 A fathers son was devil possessed, and in torment, and Jesus has compassion on him.

*Mark 9:29 And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.*

I respect those who run orphanages, the city missions, the down and outers, (Bro. Pete Wigdor who has Charity Baptist Mission on Grider St.), those who work with and help the mentally and physically hand-icapped, those who work with the deaf.

We go out visiting and we can meet some pretty strange people! Individuals with some real problems that need to be dealt with.

#### **6. Compassion will care for the grieving:**

Luke 7: 11-15 Oh, how we need to care for individuals who are grieving over loved ones who have departed.

It is hard to come up with the right words to say sometimes that will be a help, comfort and an encouragement to the surviving relatives.

We learn to give Words of comfort from the scriptures! The world certainly does not have a clue. They are at a loss.

*Ps 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.*

*Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

(At my dad's funeral, I was able to preach the gospel, and 20 or more souls, loved ones, family members, trusted Christ as their Savior.)

We hold in our hands the TRUTH! Something that people search their whole lives for!

*John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

*John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

*John 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

We can assure folks that one-day...

*Rev 21:4 ...God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

Compassion will care for the grieving!

What can I do as a caregiver? Send an appropriate card; Flowers; Merilu watched a home one time while the funeral was on. They were concerned about being robbed while the family was away; Invite them to church, your home for coffee & desert. BE A FRIEND! Pray with them and for them! Be a source of strength & encouragement to them.

Stay in touch, don't forget them! Get involved in their lives. (Step-mom, Barb; Jon)

### **7. Compassion will care for the returning wayward.**

You are familiar with the story of the Prodigal son? (Luke 15: 11-20)

Look at the father's reaction to his wayward son. He isn't mean spirited, obnoxious, "I told you so... Didn't I tell you that you would come crawling back to me on your knees?" He doesn't say, "Well, well, well, look what the cat dragged in!"

Some of our wayward members want to come back to church but feel that they are going to be mocked or ridiculed because they have been away for so long.

Some people just have to get sick & tired of living and eating with the pigs before they will wake up to the realization that they had it a whole lot better back at church, back at the Father's house.

We must have individuals with compassion who will show care for the returning wayward.

*Matt 9:36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.*

*Mark 6:34 And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.*

People need structure to their lives. They need direction. Without Goals and a vision for their future they are as lost sheep!

*Isa 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

*1 Peter 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.*

Luke 15: 4-7 (one vs. ninety and nine!) Compassion will care for the returning wayward!

These are the seven examples in which Jesus was moved to show compassion.

Compassion is "Your hurt in my heart"

1. Compassion will care for souls and pray for labourers.
2. Compassion will care for the sick.

3. Compassion will care for people's temporal needs.
4. Compassion will forgive the offender.
5. Compassion will care for the oppressed.
6. Compassion will care for the grieving.
7. Compassion will care for the returning wayward.